



Love Letter

No. 193

Love Token Society Newsletter

February 2001



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A "Token" of My Esteem



by Gail Brett Levine, GG

originally published in the March 2000 issue of *Adornment*,
the Newsletter of Jewelry & Related Arts



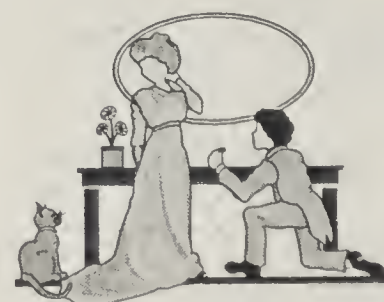
When I was a new bride, my husband was a part-time-numismatist (coin dealer), exhibiting at coin shows almost every weekend. Coin shows are notoriously slow moving, so to relieve the boredom I started collecting. Civil War Tokens, then Magician's Tokens and Prohibition Tokens. While these tokens were historically interesting, collecting them wasn't terribly exciting because the books on these subjects were neatly laid out for rarity, scarcity, etc. It felt as if I was just "filling in the blanks" - the value of each token was very clear cut. I then discovered Love Tokens, which did fulfill my collecting interest. I found in each of them a bit of the Victorian era, folk art, jewelry and Americana-all rolled into one collectible object. Love Tokens are considered part of the numismatic field because they are actually defaced coins. However, they are of considerable interest to antique jewelry collectors as well because many were made into jewelry.

For many years coin dealers looked with disdain at Love Tokens, relegating them to their "junk" boxes. This was because Love Tokens are not collected for dates, mint marks or strict grading, as they have no numismatic value. There is, however, a sub-category of coin collecting called exonumia (numismatic items other than coins and paper money) under which tokens and medals fall. Yet they are still the least researched area of the numismatic field-not even the Smithsonian Institution has any information on them.

In the 1980s, exonumists legitimized the collecting of Love Tokens. This folk-art actually started in England as early as the 16th century, becoming very popular during the 19th century. Lovers would give each other a silver sixpence called a "bender" because it was soft and would bend easily, preventing the owner from inadvertently spending it. They would often be broken in two pieces-each lover keeping half as a keepsake and a reminder that one day soon they would become one.

In America, Love Tokens were the rage from 1870 to 1890. Dimes were often used for the obvious reason-they were common coinage and soft enough to engrave. Next to gold, the scarcest Love Tokens are nickels simply because the metal was so hard. A measure of a teenage girl's popularity in the 1870's was the number of Love Tokens she had on her charm bracelet. Gifts of brooches and bracelets of Love Tokens were also given to matriarchs with the names and initials of family members engraved on them. Custom usually decreed that only first names or initials should appear on the Love Token, and rarely is one found bearing a last name.

continued on page 3



Dear LTS Members:

I have assumed the duties of Secretary/Treasurer. Invoices were mailed January 16th requesting that you mail your 2001 dues. Please send the dues in as soon as you can.

When you study the financial report you will see that Barbara Newhouse and I are still in the process of transferring the LTS funds. The statement reflects the funds that both of us have combined. The transfer will be complete by the time you receive your next newsletter.

- Sid Gale

WELCOME! NEW MEMBERS

- #1008 Peter T. Lacombe
3012 Walton St.
Jacksonville, FL. 32207
- #1009 Louis G. Oliari
350 Bedford St.
Bridgewater, MA. 02324
- #1010 David J. McCarthy
331 Franklin #101
Buffalo, NY 14221
- #1011 William I. Stratemeyer
9402 Dawnvale Rd
Nottingham, MD 21236
- #1012 Richard Gardecki
115 Dudley-Oxford Rd.
Dudley, Mass 01571

Letter to the Editor

I've enclosed for your consideration a poem I created today about love tokens. I have been a poet of sorts since I was 10 years old and have had many of my poems published in different publications and newspapers. I have been a member of LTS for two years.

- Sheila J. Petelis
57 Nahant Ave., Apt. 17
Revere, MA 02151-3235

(See last page for Sheila's poem.)

Financial Statement

General Funds

Balance November 30, 2000

\$6,273.99

Receipts

New Members	\$50.00
Membership Dues 2001	\$640.00
Membership Dues 2002	\$70.00
Membership Dues 2003	\$10.00
Donation (Bill Fivaz)	\$15.00
Interest (Bank Account) December	\$10.63
January	\$6.94
Sale of Book	\$53.00
Check #388 below transferred to open new account	\$1,000.00

Total Receipts

\$1,855.57

Subtotal

\$8,129.56

Expenses

Check #388 - Sid Gale (initial \$ transfer)	\$1,000.00
Check #389 - Sid Gale (Works Software)	\$50.00
Check #390 - Mary Hammel (Graphic Art)	\$90.00
Check #391 - U.S.P.O (LTS #192)	\$7.51
Check #392 - U.S.P.O. (Misc postage)	\$6.50
Check #393 - Kinko (duplication LTS #192)	\$129.41
Check #394 - U.S.P.O. (LTS #193)	\$102.00
Check #395 - U.S.P.O.(Mail Books)	\$3.95
Check #328 - Lloyd Entennman (Book Sale)	\$58.00
Check #1001 - Office Depot (Paper & Labels)	\$18.45
Check #1002 -U.S.P.O. (Invoice postage)	\$70.40
Check #1003 - Carol Harmes (B. Newhouse Gift)	\$61.60
Direct Deduction (Checks for new account)	\$14.75
Bank Service Charge	\$2.00

Total Expenses

\$1,614.57

Balance as of January 31, 2001

\$6,514.99

Permanent Fund - Audubon Savings and Loan Association
1 year certificate of deposit

\$655.50

Membership Report

Membership as of November 30, 2000	218
New Members	5
Membership as of January 31, 2001	223

Sidney R. Gale - Secretary / Treasurer

<http://lovetokensociety.homepage.com>



A "Token" of My Esteem, continued

Wealthy families often gave Love Tokens engraved with the name or initials of the deceased to those who attended a funeral service. A great many 1876 coins became keepsakes and mementos because they marked the nation's Centennial. Superstition also played a role in the popularization of love tokens. Midwives often carried a combination of gold and silver Love Tokens as good luck charms to ensure the delivery of a healthy child.

Most Love Tokens were not engraved on the obverse (face) of the coin because the date was significant to the parties concerned—date of birth, marriage or death, the year a couple met, etc. The reverse was usually ground off, buffed and polished with jeweler's rouge. A design was laid out with a small pointed punch and, with the use of a jeweler's magnifying eyepiece, the design was cut into the metal with engraving tools. Sometimes, though, both sides were ground off. When watch fobs were made, they would be finished with gold plating to match the chains to which they were attached. When a Love Token was used as a brooch, names or initials were sometimes inlaid in black enamel as a contrast. Many Love Tokens were darkened in the incised design to show up better against the polished surface.

The quality of the engraving is as varied as the coins. Some, because of their crudity, were obviously "home made," while others were done by artistic amateurs, and many were engraved by skilled craftsmen. Hand engraving was in great demand during this period for many different types of jewelry. For example, pocket watches were handsomely monogrammed and other personal jewelry and accessories were hand chased.

A skilled engraver could execute an intricate design in thirty minutes. Engraving was executed by journeymen at trade fairs like the Chicago World's Fair in 1892-93. Sailors, soldiers and prisoners, lonely and separated from loved ones, also engraved coinage, but local jewelers and watch engravers did the best work.

By 1882, the U. S. Mint had to increase the production of dimes to offset the demand for Love Tokens. In an effort to stem the usage, a law passed in 1909 prohibiting the mutilation of coins contributed to the eventual waning of the Love Token fad. Another possible factor was the prosperity of the 20th century. Why would a suitor proffer a cut dime when he could buy a silver locket with his picture in it for his sweetheart? In any case, hand engravers became scarce during the Industrial Revolution when machine engraving became more commonplace. It would not have been cost effective to engrave coins with individual messages by machine.

There are four criteria for the valuation of Love Tokens:

- (1) The type of coin used
- (2) The condition of the Love Token
- (3) The quality of engraving
- (4) The significance—type of scene, occasion for a message, names, etc.

If you find Love Tokens, you can be relatively certain they are genuine vintage pieces. They are not likely to be reproduced for several reasons. Present day coins have little silver content and therefore are not really worth working on or preserving. Older coins which are not in circulation are fairly expensive to purchase so it would be senseless to lessen their value by defacement. In addition, it would be difficult to find a freehand engraver to do the work today. Furthermore, it is still illegal to deface coins.



Love Tokens Rated (from the most common to the most desirable in both overall category and sub-category):

DESIGNS

Initials: plain; fancy; elaborate;

combined with scene and date

Monograms: plain; fancy; elaborate;

combined with scene and date

Names: plain; fancy; elaborate;

combined with scene and date

Scenes: flowers; birds; animals;

landscapes; seascapes; people;

transportation (trains, ships, etc.);

miscellaneous objects (guns, religious, emblems, etc.)

Dual Pieces: both sides planed off; monograms/initials in combination

with inscription; date or scene

Historical: Centennial; World's Fair; patriotic; political

Embellishments: Enamel; Cut out;

Gemstones inlaid; Carved in relief,

chased or hammered design;

Combinations of above

ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS:

Weddings, Births, ID Tags, Contest

awards, Funeral remembrances,

Masonic, Historic occasions, Eroticism

COINS USED (\$US)

(listed from smallest to largest)

Dimes- Charms

Quarters- Pocket pieces

Half dimes (an actual denomination)-

Pendants

Half dollars- Bracelets

Silver dollars- Stickpins

\$1 Gold piece- Necklaces

\$2 Gold piece- Watch fobs

Morgan & Trade Dollars (and other

commemorative dollars)- Cufflinks

\$5 Gold piece- Buttons

Large cents- Earrings

Copper & Nickel pieces- Hatpins

\$20 Gold piece- Shirtwaist studs, belt buckles

Gail Brett Levine, GG, is the publisher of Auction Market Resource, appraiser, consultant to the trade, and a long-standing member of the Love Token Society.



President's Message - Carol Harmes

Free at Last

Barbara's retirement became official at the Love Token Society meeting held at FUN. There was a small party with refreshments. I called it a retirement party and Sid called it an installation of new officers party.

LTS wanted to do something special for Barbara for all the years of work she contributed to our club. It was decided to make a love token for her. What could be more fitting than a token of our love and esteem.

We decided to use a 2000 dated silver proof quarter signifying her retirement year. Next we had to decide which of the five quarters to use. Unfortunately her state has not been issued yet. I selected the New Hampshire quarter picturing the old man in the mountain landmark. That quarter has the motto "Live free or die" on the reverse. While Barbara does not resemble the old man in the mountain, she is married to Bob, and retirement usually does signify old age. With no more LTS responsibilities, Barbara is going to "live free," and we hope Bob will not "die" from all the work we will keep giving him.

Dear Bob, please do not get any ideas for your retirement. We have just started saving

money for your token, and with the stock market the way it is, it may be twenty years or so. Just kidding. Don't worry, you'll get yours, and I mean that in the nicest way.

I feel a little guilty that Bob did not get a love token, because he has worked hard for a long time. Retirement gifts are not a reward for leaving, but a symbol of thanks and appreciation for years of hard work. We just happen to think of it when someone leaves.

Barbara's love token was made by John Dickson, who just happens to reside in Sarasota, Florida. The coin is engraved "THANKS" at the top and "LTS" at the bottom. There is a bee in the center and a scrollwork border. If you are wondering

why we chose a bee, Bob and Barbara raise bees and collect bee related items. I have only seen one other love token with a bee, and it was pictured in an article. Now Barbara has one with our thanks.

John Dickson is a second-generation hand engraver and has been engraving for over 30 years. His engravings are done using a combination of power assisted gravers and also old-fashioned hand tools. Some of the wooden handled gravers were passed down to him from his father. John has a jewelry store and has worked both as an engraver and a jeweler. His web site address is: www.seadesigns.com.

Love Token Get-Together at FUN

Left to Right:

*Lorin Harmes,
Carol Harmes,
Steve Thompkins,
Ernie Turnes,
Sid Gale*



Letter to the Editor

Just wanted to let you know that for the February meeting of the Mansfield, CT Numismatic Society, I will be doing a presentation on Love Tokens: A Connecticut connection. I am working on getting the slides produced now. Basically, I bought a love token bracelet from a Willamantic, CT, dealer. I checked on the Internet and was able to find only two Woodmonts (which was one of the tokens on the bracelet). One was located in Alabama and the other in Connecticut. Touche.

I have been buying postcards about Woodmont on Ebay and even found one that had lovers lane (how appropriate). I went to three cemeteries (as they had a lot of names like Eva, Van, Maimie, and Lulu) but it did not pan out. I will be doing a lecture/slide

show presentation on it. I will preface the lecture with an introduction to love tokens and an overview of what the LTS has to offer. I will be bringing some newsletters and application forms.

On another front, I have an audio/slide show ready for the March 24, 2001 NENA 2001 LTS meeting. I just recieved the current issue of NENA NEWS, and they republished Carol Harmes' "Ways to collect love tokens." I have two extra copies, one for Carol and one for the LTS archives which I will be mailing to Carol and Sid.

Hope everyone is in good health.

Best Regards, George A. Bilodeau, Jr.



*Barbara Newhouse's
Retirement Love Token*



Shafer Love Token - An Interesting Piece

In preparation for the current listing of auction items, I received an interesting piece. Engraved on the obverse of a Seated Liberty quarter was the following:

*G. Shafer
Co. F 11th
Iowa V.V.*

The reverse has evidence of an attached pin. The engraving was strong, but there appeared to be many surface scratches, as if someone had attempted to clean it with steel wool. Now, I'm not a history buff, but this struck me as a Civil War piece, so I spent some time searching the Internet for "Shafer," "Iowa Volunteers" and "Iowa Co. F 11th." I found a web site maintained by a group of people dedicated to the preservation of the Iowa Civil War Volunteers. Their web site didn't list a Shafer, but they did confirm the existence of Company F of the 11th Iowa Infantry. The site also had a link to the United States Army Military History Institute (USAMHI).

The USAMHI web site allows for an electronic query request of all the records they maintain. I entered the information from the love token and added my suspicion that this was related to the Iowa Volunteers from the mid to late 1800's. Several weeks passed and I hadn't heard anything so I assumed my request was too insignificant for them to fill. That is, until last week when I received an official looking US Army envelope. Inside were copies of records kept by the USAMHI. Jackpot!

According to the book, *A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion* (1979, Frederick Dyer), the 11th Iowa Regiment Infantry was organized on September 28, 1861. The Regiment first saw battle on April 6-7, 1862 at the Battle of Shilo, Tennessee. They proceeded through the war and participated in the siege of Atlanta as well as General Sherman's "March to the Sea". The 11th witnessed the surrender of Johnston and his army on April 26, 1865 and marched in the Grand Review on May 24, 1865. They mustered out (disbanded) on July 15, 1865. During this tumultuous period, the Regiment lost a total of 259 men. Of the casualties, 86 were enlisted men killed or mortally wounded during battle. (Ironically, 168 men were killed due to disease.)

George W. Shafer was born in Pennsylvania and moved to Mount Pleasant, Iowa. He was 19 years old when he decided to enlist for the Union Army in the War of the Rebellion on September 23, 1861 (five days before the 11th was organized). When his service time expired on January 1st, 1864, he re-enlisted. During the July 4, 1864 Battle of Nickajack Creek, Georgia, he was wounded. As General Sherman moved his troops towards Atlanta, Mr. Shafer died of his wounds the next day in Kenesaw Mountain, Georgia. He is buried in grave number 609 of Section F at the National Cemetery located in Marietta, Georgia. A few notes: His mortal shot was received on Independence Day. After serving for 32 months, he died just two weeks shy of the Siege of Atlanta and nine months before the end of the war.

Regarding the love token, I was intrigued by the "V.V." At first I was inclined to think it was to symbolize the two times Mr. Shafer had enlisted. However, it may very well be a simple English method of showing the plural of an abbreviation ("Volunteers"). I further postulated the piece was made for the surviving family to commemorate his honorable death. When I asked a friend of mine who is a Civil War fanatic, he suggested this was possibly an early version of a military "dog tag." I explained there was no hole for suspension. He replied that many of the early identification tags or buttons were pinned to the inner garments or the inside of the jacket lapel. This would ensure the tag didn't get lost or torn off in the heat of the battle or during troop movements. For whatever reason, we now have this piece of history to remind us of the terrific price paid by our countrymen. As Sid Gale mentioned, it makes one think just how many of the love tokens in our own collections were also carried or commissioned by soldiers of this era. They may be initials, but for some, it was a matter of life and death.

As a footnote, the USAMHI is willing to provide records searches for anyone free of charge. Their archives are, of course, military related. In fact, along with the information they sent me, there was also a list of thirteen other documents available regarding the history of the Iowa 11th



Infantry. They also note the archives contain photographs of groups and individuals from the 11th. Who knows, they may have a picture of George Shafer tucked away on some dusty bookshelf. If you want to contact the USAMHI for your own research, here is their information:

U.S. Army Military History Institute
22 Ashburn Drive
Carlisle, PA 17013-5008
(717) 245-3971

E-mail: usamhi@awc.carlisle.army.mil
Web Site:






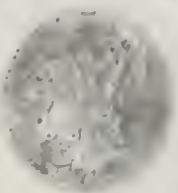





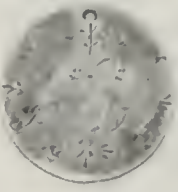









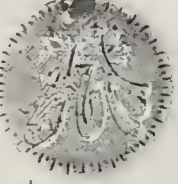

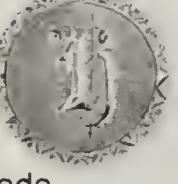





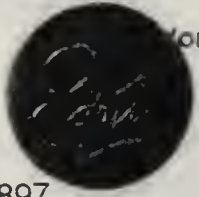









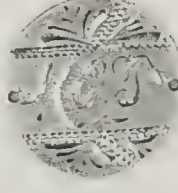








<http://carlisle-www.army.mil/usamhi>



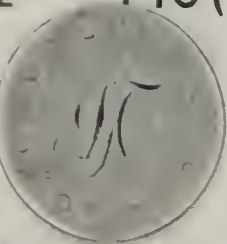


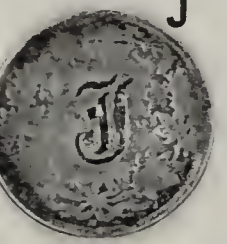





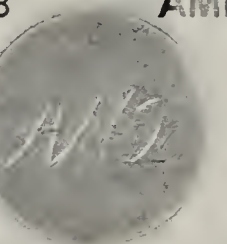





And if you are interested in purchasing this piece, the current owner still wishes to proceed with the auction, even with the newfound history. As such, it is included in this listing as #A-34. The winning bidder will receive copies of all the above documentation.






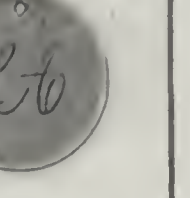



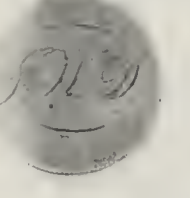

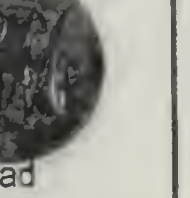


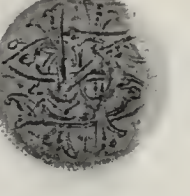
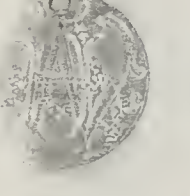

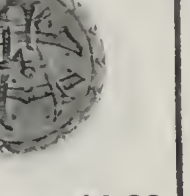
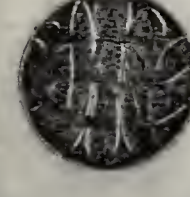


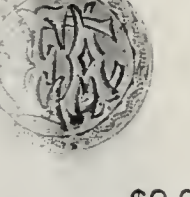
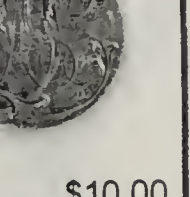

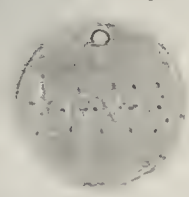





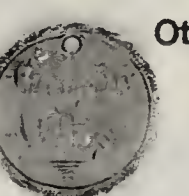







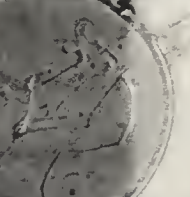
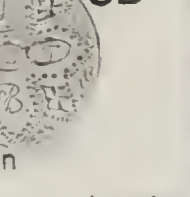


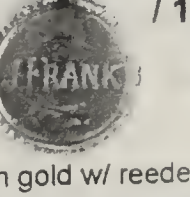

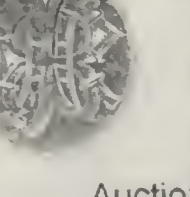
- Robert Higdem





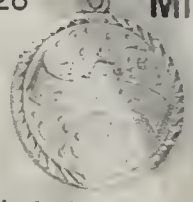
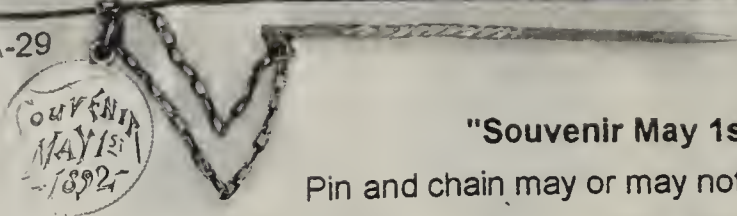

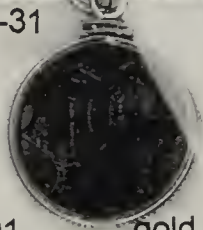





*Happy
Valentine's
Day*






G-1  1827 \$8.00	GDB G-2  1875 \$8.00	TD G-3  1876 \$8.00	MEA G-4  1876 \$8.00	AEB G-5  1877 \$8.00	S.J.W. G-6  1882 \$8.00	OBC
G-7  1883 \$8.00	AAK G-8  1884 \$8.00	EDW G-9  reeded edge blank rev. \$8.00	MLP T-1  1884 \$7.00	MBB T-2  var. 2 1876 \$8.00	CFH T-3  1877 \$8.00	AWF
CAE T-4  1876 \$8.00	CGF T-5  1877 \$8.00	RDW T-6  1877 \$8.00	WMA T-7  1877 \$8.00	MWJ T-8  1883 \$8.00	GMH T-9  1884 \$8.00	
GCR D-1  1857 \$8.00	ABW D-2  1897 \$9.00	C.D.F. D-3  1877 \$10.00	NMR J-1  reeded edge blank rev. \$6.00	EHS J-2  1884 \$6.00	TJE J-3  1876 \$6.00	
JDM J-4  <185?> \$8.00	NS J-5  1871 \$8.00	WLR J-6  1875 \$8.00	MC J-7  1875 \$8.00	From Libbie J-8  1875 \$8.00	RB J-9  10c \$8.00	
June 30 J-10  1876 \$8.00	MFH J-11  1876 \$8.00	WBP J-12  1876 \$8.00	MSG J-13  1877 \$8.00	CBP J-14  1877 \$8.00	ACW J-15  1877 \$8.00	
EFR J-16  1887 \$8.00	VB J-17  1884 \$8.00	LCA J-18  1884 \$8.00	WF J-19  1886 \$8.00	prefab J-20  10c Seat. Lib. \$8.00	1892 J-21  reeded edge blank rev. \$9.00	
GS J-22  Indian Head cent \$9.00	design J-23  <1853> \$9.00	AGM J-24  1857 \$9.00	RHT J-25  1872 \$9.00	MWL J-26  1875 \$9.00	C J-27  1875 \$9.00	

J-28  1876 \$9.00	J-29  pen loop 1876 \$9.00	J-30  1875 \$9.00	J-31  1876 \$9.00	J-32  1877 \$9.00	J-33  1877 \$9.00
J-34  1877 \$9.00	J-35  1877 \$9.00	J-36  1882 \$9.00	J-37  1882 \$9.00	J-38  1883 \$9.00	J-39  1883 \$9.00
J-40  1884 \$9.00	J-41  1884 \$9.00	J-42  1886 \$9.00	J-43  1886 \$9.00	J-44  1888 \$9.00	J-45  1889 \$9.00
J-46  1890 \$9.00	J-47  1891 \$9.00	J-48  Canada 10c \$9.00	J-49  Canada 10c \$9.00	J-50  Canada 10c \$9.00	J-51  Canada 10c \$9.00
J-52  Canada 1906 \$9.00	J-53  Canada 1880 \$9.00	J-54  Canada 1880 \$9.00	J-55  Denmark 25 Ore 1891 \$9.00	J-56  Denmark 25 Ore 1907-11 \$9.00	J-57  (or Paris) 1897 .01 \$10.00
J-58  05 1884 \$10.00	J-59  smooth edge 1883 / 1884 \$10.00	J-60  reeded edge 1893 / 1880 \$10.00	J-61  <1853> \$10.00	J-62  <1854> \$10.00	J-63  1858 \$10.00
J-64  <1873> \$10.00	J-65  1875 \$10.00	J-66  1875 \$10.00	J-67  1875 \$10.00	J-68  1875 \$10.00	J-69  1876 \$10.00
J-70  1877 \$10.00	J-71  1877 \$10.00	J-72  1882 \$10.00	J-73  1882 \$10.00	J-74  1883 \$10.00	J-75  1883 \$10.00



J-76  1884 \$10.00	SLC	J-77  1887 \$10.00	EM	J-78  1887 \$10.00	WFM	J-79  1887 \$10.00	Y.E.L.	J-80  1889 \$10.00	SGJ	J-81  1891 \$10.00	AHL
J-82  .25 1856 \$10.00	PTC (?)	J-83  .05 working earring Canada \$10.00	MPH	J-84  .10 Canada \$10.00	MCM	J-85  .10 Canada \$10.00	PVA	J-86  .10 Canada \$10.00	HAH	J-87  .10 Canada \$10.00	SAR
J-88  .25 Canada \$10.00	AJC	J-89  .25 Canada \$10.00	J	J-90  "Für Erinnerung 7.15.9.97" Germany \$10.00		J-91  1892 / JAW reeded edge \$12.00		J-92  reeded edge blank rev. \$12.00	GR	J-93  reeded edge blank rev. \$12.00	LJ
J-94  1872 \$12.00	KR	J-95  1875 \$12.00	KW	J-96  1877 \$12.00	RAS	J-97  1883 \$12.00	CAJ	J-98  1883 \$12.00	LFW	J-99  1886 \$12.00	hebrew
J-100  1887 \$12.00	TGA	J-101  1890 \$12.00	EC	J-102  Liberty .05 1883 \$12.00	DG	J-103  .05 1901 \$12.00	Ann	J-104  .25 Seat. Lib. \$12.00	MMK	J-105  .25 Seat. Lib. \$12.00	DB
J-106  .25 Seat. Lib. \$12.00	C	J-107  .25 Seat. Lib. \$12.00	A	J-108  .25 <1853> \$12.00	AML	J-109  .25 <1853> \$12.00	DW	J-110  .25 <1854> \$12.00	AW	J-111  .50 1856 \$12.00	JC
J-112  .10 w/ full post Canada \$12.00	MD	J-113  .25 Canada \$12.00	BCE	J-114  .25 Canada \$12.00	RM	J-115  1/5 Sol Peru \$12.00	KLW	J-116  .25 size, reeded edge \$15.00	CMM /	"From Grandma Clappison 92"	
J-117  .25 size, reeded edge \$15.00	SKW / April 23rd, 1879	J-118  .25 Seat. Lib. \$15.00	CS	J-119  <1853> \$15.00	F.K. Pool	J-120  <1854> \$15.00	S	H-1  Shilling Grt. Brit. \$14.00	JCK		

H-2  10 Canada \$2.00	H-3  1886 \$2.00	H-4  <1853> \$4.00	H-5  1889 \$4.00	H-6  <1853> \$6.00	H-7  1876 \$6.00
H-8  1877 \$6.00	H-9  1877 \$6.00	H-10  1883 \$6.00	H-11  1887 \$6.00	H-12  1890 \$6.00	H-13  Indian Head .01 \$8.00
H-14  Canada \$8.00	H-15  Canada \$8.00	H-16  Canada \$8.00	H-17  .10 \$8.00	H-18  1876 \$8.00	H-19  1876 \$8.00
H-20  1883 \$8.00	H-21  .05 Canada \$9.00	H-22  .10 \$9.00	H-23  1883 \$9.00	H-24  6 pence Grt. Brit. \$10.00	H-25  6 pence Grt. Brit. \$10.00
A-1  1/2 dime Auction	A-2  3 pence Grt. Brit. Auction	A-3  .01 1902 Auction	A-4  1888 Auction	A-5  1882 Auction	A-6  1875 Auction
A-7  10 Auction	A-8  1858 Auction	A-9  1876 Auction	A-10  1875 Auction	A-11  1856 pin parts Auction	A-12  1876 Auction
A-13  1876 Auction	A-14  1877 Auction	A-15  1877 (au) Auction	A-16  1860-61 Belgium 20 Centimes w/ unique bezel / loop. Coin is copper/nickel. Auction	A-17  working pin 1858 Auction	
A-18  working <1854> Auction	A-19  .25 w/ working pin mirrored Auction	A-20  15 mm gold w/ reeded edge / 1887 Auction	A-21  Type III \$1 Auction	A-22  Type III \$1 Auction	A-23  1855 \$2.50 Auction

<p>A-24</p>  <p>10 Canada blank reverse w/ reeded edge</p> <p>HVW / EK w/ working hasp Auction</p>	<p>A-25</p>  <p>Emma / scene Scene is of a rocky seashore, sea, ship, clouds and birds. Auction</p>	<p>A-26</p>  <p>WG / picture Picture is of a 8 petal flower in full bloom w/ stem and leaves. Auction</p>
<p>A-27</p>  <p>B.O.B. / picture Picture is of a tree trunk, branches and leaves. Bamboo???</p> <p>smooth edge Auction</p>	<p>A-28</p>  <p>Miggs Coin is BU 1885 Auction</p>	<p>A-29</p>  <p>KK / phrase: "Souvenir May 1st 1892" Pin and chain may or may not be gold. Some speculation on my part: Chicago World's Fair???</p> <p>16 mm reeded edge gold. Not a \$1, they were 15mm. Auction</p>
<p>A-30</p>  <p>scene Scene is of a sea- or lake-side 3 story house, landscaping, covered porch, trees, bath, and sailboat on the water. Auction</p> <p>.01 1875</p>	<p>A-31</p>  <p>MM 10 K gold bezel Auction</p> <p>.01 1887</p>	<p>A-32</p>  <p>J.S. Matching earrings. And functional!! Auction</p> <p><1854> and 18?? dimes</p>
<p>A-33</p>  <p>"Vila Do Popto St. Maria Azores, 1945" 1940 Portugal 10 escudos. Probably a WWII item Auction</p>	<p>A-35</p>  <p>1876-A Prussia 5 Mark (KM# Y112). .8038 oz. .900 silver. This piece has no engraving but it has a working pin (strong and professionally mounted). Auction</p>	<p>A-36</p>  <p>1922-D Peace Dollar. A fine example of the "push-through" coin artistry. First Peace \$ I've personally seen like this. Auction</p>
<p>A-34</p>  <p>G. Shafer Co. F 11th Iowa V.V. Seated Liberty .25. See article in this issue. Auction</p>		

A-37	Coin	Engraving
	1877 .50	E.G.
	1876 .25	Mother
	1875 .10	Papa
	1907 .05	SR
	Indian .01	JMC

Love Token Type Set in custom plastic holder. The half dollar is REALLY carved with extensive background tooling. The engraving on the .25 is typical gothic. The .10 has beautiful artwork around "Papa". The .05 is very crude. The Indian Head .01 is typical. Auction

<p>A-38</p>  <p>Type III (bent) Gold \$1</p> <p>BJ</p>  <p>ONE TROY OUNCE .999 FINE SILVER</p>	<p>A-39 The reverse reads: The beginning of a life filled with dreams. Your Wedding Day. O.K., O.K., I know this isn't a coin of the realm and thus isn't a love token per se. But it is an engraved 1 ounce bar of .999 fine silver. And it did express joy to some newlyweds. So.. Auction</p> <p>"Many Blessings To Terrance & Shirley - Bill & Stryder 8-3-85"</p>
--	--



A-40

Doris

1923 Peace Dollar with silver watch fob chain. A great chance to fill that type set. A great love token!



Auction

A-41



A great bracelet with 10 love tokens. All pieces have very similar borders and engraving styles. All coins are Canadian dimes of the "Young Victorian" style (1858 - 1901). The chain is silver. Hasp appears to be silver as well and is stamped "925" on the inside of its catch hook. First 3 pieces have engraved borders around the hole! The initials are as follows:

AWW USS ORS DNM HJS MEW FC WJM HLS CES

Auction

Well, there you have it. Three and a half pages (166 pieces) of love tokens for sale and about two pages of auction material (41 lots). We broke the 200 piece barrier! Whew! You know, when I volunteered for this outfit, my recruiter never told me..... Ahh but what fun it is to be able to at least enjoy these great examples if but for a short time. Sorry to disappoint you Carol, but I guess you will have to wait until the next Loveletter to find out the continuing saga of the "Corner Store". This listing and the cover story have really cut into our newsletter's space. My "Top Ten Picks of the Month"? Well, I simply can't this time. There are just too many great ones to choose from. You really can't go wrong this month. Oh, by the way, all postage and insurance rates went up for all purchases. Each range of postage has now been increased by \$0.25.

Mail Bid Sale Rules

ALL BIDDING CEASES AT 8:00 P.M. PST ON FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2001.

1. No buyers fee. As with the coin sales, the seller pays fifty cents per coin sold.
2. Sellers may have placed a reserve bid on certain pieces.
3. All winning bids of \$15.00 or higher will be reduced to approximately 10% above the second highest bid. No bids under \$15.00 will be reduced.
4. All bids must be received by 8:00 P.M. PST on the closing date of Friday, May 2, 2001.
5. Phone bidding is encouraged. But note: the only bidding information I will give out the SECOND highest bid amount.
6. Winning bidders will be notified by mail or e-mail (if I have your e-mail address). And same as with the coin sales, buyer pays postage and insurance. Please note the change in postage and insurance rates which took effect January, 2001.
7. Prices realized will be posted in the next Loveletter.
8. Feel free to call or e-mail me if you have any questions about the pieces specifically.

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW POSTAGE RATES!

Love Never Dies

For a son who loved his mother
But had to go to war
As a short ode to his lover
Whose beautiful face he saw
From her father long deceased
W/charm & affection it endures
For the future now to increase
When death closes the door
To all who cared long ago
Their message for all time now spoken
How much they loved one so
Forever is written on the love token

by Sheila J. Petelis
(dedicated to her late mother Bertha Petelis)



Ordering Love Tokens

Please make checks payable to:

Robert Higdem
8230 N. Loch Haven Drive #2
Hayden Lake, ID 83835
(208) 772-0657
higgy2000@juno.com

In remitting, please
do not forget to
include the postage as follows:
Orders up to \$50.00 add \$1.75;
up to \$100.00, add \$3.00;
up to \$150.00, add \$3.75;
up to \$200.00, add \$4.75;
up to \$300.00, add \$5.25;
up to \$400.00, add \$7.25;
over \$400.00, add \$9.00.

Love Letter

Love Token Society Newsletter



Dr. Robert C. Newhouse
5840 Tuttle Cove Road
Manhattan, KS 66503



Love Letter

No. 194

Love Token Society Newsletter

April 2001



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Love Token Sales

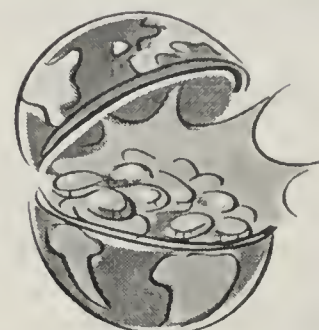
Robert Higdem
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Hayden Lake, ID 83835
(208) 772-0657
higgy2000@juno.com



Love Letter Layout/Design

Mary Hammel
mhammel@ksu.edu

Love Tokens from Around the World



A surprising number of foreign love tokens can be found and collected. My goal (impossible dream) is to have one from every country. "Around the World in Eighty Days" has taken over ten years, but I now have over 50 countries, a goal which I never would have thought possible when I first started collecting. It is difficult to conduct a study to measure the rarity of foreign love tokens. Living in the United States, we only see what has been brought into the country. There are probably many more love tokens remaining in their countries of origin. Of the foreign countries that produced love tokens, Great Britain made the largest quantity. They are credited with the early origins of the engraved coin, typically using large copper pennies from the 17th and 18th centuries. The tradition was revived in the late 19th century and lasted into the early 20th century. At that time the most common host coins were the three and four pence, followed by the six pence. Shillings, half-crowns, and even gold sovereigns and half-sovereigns can be found. A few love tokens exist from India and South Africa, probably as a direct result of these countries being under British rule.

Canada was probably the second largest foreign producer of love tokens. Their presence in there may be due to Canada's proximity to the United States. Many sizes of coins were used in Canada, as in Great Britain. This makes for interesting type set collecting. Dimes and five cent silvers were used most often, but with perseverance larger sizes can be found, including the five-dollar gold. Love tokens from the territory of Newfoundland are available, while those

from New Brunswick are extremely difficult to obtain.

Germany, France, and Mexico follow in a three way tie. Common love tokens with initials remain universal, but occasionally sayings and sentiments have to be translated. For love token name collectors, some of the names are more characteristic of these countries (such as Gunther, Gustave, and Eduardo). Of these countries, Mexico is the only one where we can still find love tokens of a more modern vintage.

Norway and Denmark come next, followed by Sweden, Switzerland, and the Netherlands. These love tokens can be found, but less frequently. The other countries in my collection do not turn up with any regularity, with the exception of Australia. I did not rank this country, because most of the love tokens were made during World War II or are rare prisoner tokens, both being either too early or too late for this study. The love tokens I have listed are generally from the latter part of the 19th century and early part of the 20th century. There are a few earlier coins in my collection, but it would be impossible to determine when they were engraved.

On page 3 is a list of love token countries I have collected. In some cases I may have seen only one piece from a given country, which makes me believe that some coins may have been brought back as souvenirs and then engraved in the United States. Supporting this theory is an occasional English inscription on a foreign coin.

continued on page 3

Dear LTS Members:

Thank you. The dues have been flowing in steadily. Only 31 members have either decided not to renew their membership or have not sent their money in yet. Your newsletter has been marked with a red mark (X) if I have not received your dues. If you have a red mark, I request you that you send your dues without delay so you may continue receiving the Love Letter.

- Sid Gale

WELCOME! NEW MEMBERS

- #1013 Jon Stock
702 Naragansett Ave.
Baraboo, WI 53913
- #1014 Jeff Siptak
4013 Russellwood Dr.
Nashville, TN 37204
- #1015 Annette M. Conrad
19808 Highway D
Eolia, MO 63344-4042
- #1016 Clark Secrest
P.O. Box 440101
Aurora, Colorado 80044
- #1017 Gina J. Rogers
100 Hanson Road
Sandbornville, NH 03872
- #1018 Susan Lotas
129 West 87th St #4
New York, NY 10024

WANTED

These initials:

DJL
MCW
CLS
CNS

or just the first and last initials

Thanks.

Ernie Turnes
eturnes@juno.com
(410) 879-8983

Financial Statement

General Funds

Balance January 31, 2001 \$6,514.99

Receipts

New Members	\$60.00
Membership Dues 2001	\$820.00
Membership Dues 2002	\$100.00
Membership Dues 2003	\$40.00
Membership Dues 2004	\$20.00
Membership Dues 2005	\$20.00
Donation (Cindy Grellman)	\$5.00
(Ruth Spalding)	\$2.00
(Archie Taylor)	\$5.00
Interest (Bank Account) February	\$7.02
Sale of 2 Books	\$106.00
Check #397 from below transferred from Barbara Newhouse	\$5,169.70

Total Receipts \$6,354.72

Subtotal \$12,869.71

Expenses

Check #396 - VOID	\$0.00
Check #397 - Transfer LTS Funds to Sid Gale	\$5,169.70
Check #1004 - Robert Higdem (coin sale supplies)	\$30.44
Check #1005 - Robert Newhouse	\$452.45
Kinko's Duplication LTS #193	\$233.70
Postage	\$132.00
Foreign Postage	\$11.75
Mary Hammel (graphics)	\$75.00
Check #1006 - Postage	\$11.00
Bank Service Charge	\$2.00

Total Expenses \$5,665.59

Balance as of March 31, 2001 \$7,204.12

Permanent Fund - Audubon Savings and Loan Association
1 year certificate of deposit \$655.50

Membership Report

Membership as of January 31, 2001	223
New Members	6
Reinstatement	1
Membership as of March 31, 2001	**230

** 31 of these members have not paid their 2001 dues.

Sidney R. Gale - Secretary / Treasurer

<http://lovetokensociety.homepage.com>



Love Tokens from Around the World

continued from page 1

Country list:

Australia
Austria
Belgium
Bolivia
Brazil
British W. Africa
British W. Indies
Canada: including
Newfoundland
New Brunswick
Central American Republic
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Czechoslovakia
Danish West Indies
Denmark
Egypt
Finland
France
Germany: including the German state of
Bremen (1st c. BC)
Great Britain
Greece
Guatemala
Haiti
Hawaii
Hong Kong
Iceland
India
Indonesia



Isle of Man
Italy: including the Italian state of
Sardinia
Japan
Jersey
Malaya Straits Settlements
Mexico
Morocco
Netherlands
Norway
Panama
Papal States
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Portuguese India
Puerto Rico
Roman Republic
Russia
Saudi Arabia
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Turkey
Uruguay
Venezuela

I have seen one love token from Romania in some one else's collection. If any one has seen other countries that are not on this list, please share the information with us in the next issue of the Love Letter.

Sincerely,
Carol Harmes



Recently seen on eBay:

Cabinet Card of a woman wearing what appears to be a love token pin.

Size: 4 1/4 x 6 1/2. Clear and sharp.

At bottom: E.P. Butler, Reno Art Gallery.

Blank back. Condition: Mint.

Vice President's Message

The Fun Begins

Hi, I hope everyone had a wonderful "Holiday Season". I did, not only because I was fortunate to spend the holidays with our children and grandchildren, but because I decided to share some of my love tokens with them, as holiday gifts. I have been a member of the Love Token Society since 1972 and have all the Love Token Society newsletters, so I looked through my files and found a few newsletters that had articles about the beginnings of the love token. My children know their father started my collection when we became involved with some of the local coin clubs in the early 1970's, but had not given them much thought lately. So, they were surprised to receive some for Christmas. They were thrilled. They appreciate the beautiful hand engraving on the coins. My husband enjoyed the gold coins, and I took a liking to the beautiful love tokens. We were members of a couple of the local clubs here, and Ken, my husband was President and Vice President of different clubs at different times. I was secretary of one club for a couple of years. We were fortunate to be able to take our vacations going to the ALIA Conventions. We really enjoyed them and met a lot of nice, sharing people. So this Christmas I made copies of a few stories about the origin of the love token and put three love tokens (two silver and one gold) with it for their gifts. They were thrilled and surprised I would part with some of my collection. I am really looking forward to my "job". I consider it a fun time and know I will enjoy working with all the members. I plan on writing more about my hobby and share some of my love token pieces with our members. I am currently searching for love tokens for our grandchildren. Please feel free to share any thoughts or ideas you have with me, I would really appreciate that. Also, please e-mail when you have time. Happy "Love Token" Hunting.

- Pat Hammond



The Corner Store - Robert Higdem



Hello and welcome to yet another edition of my attempt at writing. The February sale was a huge success and thanks to a major typo on my part, the auction is still open. See the end of the sales page in this issue for more information.

I don't know if you noticed, but last month's issue was great! Good articles and a heck of a listing. Kudos go out to Carol Harmes and the mysterious photographer. Not being able to fly down and attend the FUN Show, it was great to finally "meet" the people I have heard so much about and corresponded with. I studied that picture for a long time. Believe it or not, Sid was almost exactly how I pictured him (as far as I could tell).

Carol once asked me about "those great deals" I made while out hunting for the love token. Well, sorry to disappoint, but there has only been one really good find and it happened recently at a local antique shop. I visit this particular store monthly so it's easy for me to spot anything new. Well, I walked in last month and BOOM! There it was! A bracelet made up of nine half dimes (1854-1873). Seven of them have first names and all have identical engraving. The borders and backgrounds are spectacular, some of the best I had ever seen on these small coins. Undoubtedly, this piece was commissioned and assembled at the same time (but definitely for someone with a small wrist.) I stood guard while my wife went to go get the clerk for the display case keys. Ahh, it was finally mine. And the kicker? All this for \$20! Sometimes the chips fall in all the right places.

Another little victory came my way when I bid on an 1834 half dime that was advertised as having "...two initials crudely scratched on the obverse..." This probably wouldn't meet the criteria as a love token but I needed the date for my year set. When I got it ten dollars later, I looked closely at the obverse with my loupe. That's when I saw it! To the right of Liberty's hair were two initials (JN) that appeared to be re-carved and rather sloppily at that. But to the left of Liberty's nose, and too faint to see with the naked eye, was the very ornately engraved date "July 6, '65". Just goes to show you that it pays to look closely.

However, with these successes, there are also the disappointments. I recently

purchased several pieces on the Internet only to find that their jump loops and pin parts had been recently and crudely snipped off. This was apparent due to the sharpness and crispness of the cuts. I contacted the person who sold them to me and while not admitting to doing the hatchet jobs, he did agree to think twice before breaking up a set.

Speaking of sets, this is a personal subject for me. I believe that love tokens coming from a set should always remain as such. It is too easy for the individual pieces to become scattered. Case in point were two nicely engraved dimes on eBay last month. These two were identically engraved. One had a lady's first name and the other a man's. These were clearly from a set and either represented related siblings or (and as I like to think) a husband and wife. However, the seller advertised these SEPERATELY on eBay! When I objected to his doing this, he replied that he was curious as to how much he could make selling "first name love tokens." Luckily a very well respected love token collector purchased both of them. At least they are still together for now. I don't know. Maybe I get too emotional or I let my imagination wander too much. But I looked at those two names and I pictured a man and woman very much in love and having these two tokens of affection reminding them of their love for one another. And as Father Time slowly took them away and they lay together side-by-side in a peaceful little cemetery, so too should these two love tokens remain side-by-side. They were commissioned to be together, and let them stay together. I guess that is why I talked member Ron Roswell into purchasing J-53 and J-54 together from last month's sale when he only asked for one of them. Sid and I were talking recently and he described a synergistic effect on the monetary value when these items remain whole. I look at it this way, when a rare and one-of-a-kind book becomes available for sale, do you walk up and rip out the third page because it has a pretty picture on it? Well, enough preaching.

Oh, and back in December 1991 the Love Letter sales included a listing of four identical Seated Liberty dimes with the initials "S.E.McU." (I think they were

incorrectly listed as being "L.E.McU." They had identical borders and branch/leave designs above and below the letters. Each one also had three holes in it. Well, I got three of them and another member got the fourth. So now it's my turn to ask if you may be that person who has the missing fourth piece and would you be willing to sell/trade?

I am still trying to come up with a way to track everyone's wish lists. The problem is volume. I have several hundred sets of initials and names that people are looking for. This is quite a daunting list to use in addition to my own personal want list when looking at pieces for sale and up for auction. Another issue is the newsletter. You may find an initial set or a name that is offered for sale and yet I didn't "hold it for you." Well, the logistics are simply too much for me right now. I simply do not have the time to look for, hold, contact, sell, and mail individual pieces. That is, unless I can come up with an easier way. Options I am exploring include automation and computer assistance.

There is another thing that has been on my mind. This is my apparent lack of timeliness in sending the purchased items. Believe me, it bothers me as much if not more than it bothers you. I started asking why, especially since I found myself staying up past midnight for nearly two weeks trying to get caught up. Then I slowly realized I was a busy person. Now don't think I am trying to paint a bunch of excuses. Rather, here is my situation: I am a 34-year-old father of two boys, ages 3-1/2 years and 10 months. This is quite a handful, especially as my wife works as an assistant training coordinator for the Idaho State Police. I am a Hazardous Waste Inspector for the State of Idaho. The region I am responsible for includes the ten northern counties. Another way to look at it is I patrol everything from the 45th parallel to the Canadian Border. Yet another way of saying this is I single-handedly am charged with enforcing hazardous waste rules and regulations to an area that is larger than the

(continued on next page)

The Corner Store continued

states of Rhode Island, Delaware, Vermont and New Jersey combined. As a result, I am on the road a lot and when I am home, my family comes first. Evenings and weekends are VERY busy around here, but these are also the only times I can work on love tokens. Please don't think that I am taking this hobby and the responsibilities of the sales manager lightly. On the contrary, I feel very strongly about the Society and my position within. All I ask for is a little patience. Well, that and any extra love tokens you may have lying around for the next sale.... Until next time, thanks for letting me ramble.

Robert Higdem
8230 N. Loch Haven Drive #2
Hayden Lake, ID 83835
(208) 772-0657
(any day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Pacific)
higgy2000@juno.com



Love Tokens Costa Rica Style

by Bob Wester

New lifestyle. I've been in Costa Rica since March of 2000. 80°, sunny, 70° evenings, and one of the top five climates according to National Geographic. Yes, you've got it all in San Jose, Costa Rica. I have been a student and collector of many numismatic items over the years. Love token collecting has remained among my favorites. And I'm sure it will be death do us part with my collection.

Where do you find love tokens in Costa Rica? Same as everywhere else. I found a gold coin bracelet with jewels, however the coins were not engraved. That was the beginning and finally I located a 2-colon looped gold piece with Cris Columbus on the obverse. This type of gold coin was minted in very small numbers from 1897 through 1928. The name Carmine Chavas Rohas is engraved on the smoothed reverse. The cost was \$37.00 American. It's about the same size as our one dollar gold. This "love token", while not the most elaborate, is rare. I'm sure other Costa Rican love tokens exist in our membership's collections. tell us if you have one. I'll also keep collectors posted of my latest finds from time to time.

Hello Eric Sweet and George Bilodeau.
Till next time, Bob Wester- LTS #453

Editor's Note: Thanks to LTS member Jamie Spikes for contacting and following up on this reference from an eBay seller.

Cleaning Silver Love Tokens



Hello Jamie,

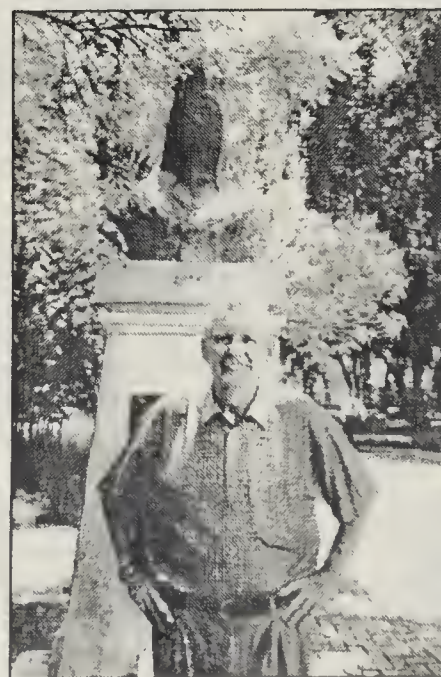
My husband told me about this little "secret" that his mother taught him, and it made sense to him from a chemical point of view so he remembered it. I'd never run across it before either but he says it's been around for a few centuries, only using a regular piece of aluminum, not aluminum foil. I'll bet Heloise and Mary Ellen, the household hints and tips gurus, know about this one too. Anyway, he says it chemically neutralizes the tarnish (which is sulphur) and returns the silver to it's original pristine condition with no loss or wearing of silver (all that and it's inexpensive too ;->).

It's very simple: take a non- aluminum container (or any non-metal since this process would weaken any other metal than silver, gold, or platinum). I used a basic ceramic cereal bowl you could use glass or plastic casserole dish if you want to lay out more, larger and/ or flat pieces. Take a piece of regular aluminum foil - about 4" by 4" (but figure a bit bigger than what you're putting it into and onto it). Place it into the bottom of the bowl. I crumpled it then straightened it out first so the salt and water could get under the bumps and reach the bottom of the bracelet. Then sprinkle salt (basic sodium chloride so a fine sea salt would work too) over the aluminum foil. I think I used about a tablespoon of table salt to about a cup of water. Then pour water (hot works faster) over this. Swish or stir the water for a second or so. Remember to use a non-metal (although silver would of course be fine) fork or utensil, or your fingers (my tool of choice) to dissolve the salt, then place items in. The tarnish on the bracelet literally disappeared before my eyes. Some items may require a little more time or more applications and you wouldn't need to leave it in more than an hour or so. I left a bracelet in for a minute maybe and it left a bit of tarnish for "character". If I had wanted all the tarnish removed I would have simply left it in for a few more minutes. If you have a ceramic sink or a plastic dish pan you could even do your real silver ware or even silver plate items this way. After I removed the bracelet I rinsed it off and patted it dry.

You don't have to be specific on amounts since you really can't over do the salt, aluminum or hot water. The worse that will happen is it won't work as well and that would be because you didn't use enough- then just kick up what you used a notch. My hubbie, Jim, also mentioned that using distilled water would "technically" be better (no other trace minerals or chemicals to react with the silver) but also said it's not necessary since you won't be leaving it in the solution for weeks or months.

It never occurred to me that there was a Love Token Society. It's really great that there are folks out there that collect and help preserve these sentimental bits of history. :-)


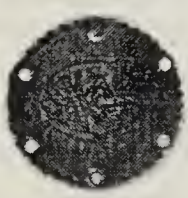

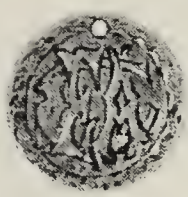
Very truly, Karyl



*Bob
Wester
with
Queen
Isabella
at
España
Park,
San Jose,
Costa
Rica*

*Nov.
2000*

G-1  1877 \$8.00	GDB G-2  1876 \$8.00	AEB G-3  1876 \$8.00	EMA G-4  1877 \$8.00	S.J.W. G-5  1882 \$8.00	OCB G-6  1883 \$8.00	AAK
G-7  1884 \$8.00	WED G-8  reeded edge blank rev. \$8.00	MLP D-1  1877 \$10.00	C.D.F. J-1  reeded edge blank rev. \$6.00	NMR J-2  1884 \$6.00	SEH J-3  1876 \$6.00	TJE
J-4  10c Seat. Lib. \$8.00	prefab J-5  <185?> \$8.00	JDM J-6  1875 \$8.00	EWR J-7  1876 \$8.00	WBP J-8  1876 \$8.00	MFH J-9  1877 \$8.00	ACW
J-10  1877 \$8.00	CBP J-11  1877 \$8.00	MSG J-12  188? \$8.00	RFE J-13  1884 \$8.00	VB J-14  1886 \$8.00	WF J-15  <1853> \$9.00	design
J-16  1872 \$9.00	THR J-17  1875 \$9.00	WML J-18  1876 \$9.00	FRH J-19  1877 \$9.00	JMS J-20  1877 \$9.00	LF J-21  1877 \$9.00	CHH
J-22  1882 \$9.00	LMB J-23  1882 \$9.00	SPS J-24  1883 \$9.00	MQB J-25  1884 \$9.00	HJD J-26  1886 \$9.00	HGL J-27  1886 \$9.00	JW
J-28  1888 \$9.00	JFF J-29  1889 \$9.00	AFM J-30  Canada 10c \$9.00	RHA J-31  1875 \$10.00	MET J-32  1875 \$10.00	FHT J-33  1876 \$10.00	BWG
J-34  1877 \$10.00	HJA J-35  1877 \$10.00	FEF J-36  1882 \$10.00	JAH J-37  1887 \$10.00	YEL J-38  1887 \$10.00	WFM J-39  1889 \$10.00	JLS

J-40  Canada 5c earring \$10.00	J-41  Canada 10c \$10.00	J-42  Canada 10c \$10.00	J-43  reeded edge non-U.S. 1992 \$12.00	J-44  reeded edge blank rev \$12.00	J-45  1887 \$12.00
J-46  1890 \$12.00	J-47  Seal 25c \$12.00	J-48  Seat. L. 25c \$12.00	H-1  1889 \$5.00	MJB  Canada 10c	H-2  1842 or 1852 \$6.00
H-2  w/ stud 1856 \$6.00	H-3  1876 \$6.00	H-4  1883 \$6.00	H-5  1883 \$6.00	H-6  1887 \$6.00	H-7  1887 \$6.00
H-8  Seat. L. 25c w/ arrows \$6.00	H-9  Canada 5c \$6.00	H-10  10c \$8.00	H-11  10c \$8.00	H-12  1876 \$8.00	H-13  w/ pin parts 1882 \$8.00
H-14  1883 \$8.00	H-15  1892 \$8.00	H-16  Great Britain 3 pence \$8.00	H-17  Canada 10c \$8.00	H-18  1/2 10c \$9.00	H-19  1876 \$9.00
H-20  1876 \$9.00	H-21  1883 \$9.00	H-22  1887 \$9.00	H-23  Canada 10c \$9.00	H-24  1876 \$12.00	H-25  rev. rays 1853 \$14.00

OOOOOOPS!!!! I really did blow it last month, didn't I? As several of you pointed out, I mistakenly listed the auction closing date as May 2, 2001. It was supposed to be March 2. However, because of this mix-up, the auction is still quite active until May 2. Therefore, grab last month's Love Letter and take another look. I am still accepting bids on that nice selection of 41 different lots. Same rules apply. All bidding will cease May 2 at 8:00 P.M. PST. Oh, and I will be out of town May 3rd and 4th, so if you want to call to check out how you did, try May 5th or later.

Thanks to everyone for being so patient with me on this last sale. It was a bit overwhelming at times but I think we got through it OK. (85 out of 166 listed pieces sold!!!). This offering is a little lighter but there is some new pieces to add variety. My "Top Ten Picks" this month? Here they are in abbreviated form: G-4, D-1, J-19, J-24 (a "Q" filler for your alphabet type set?), J-26, J-33, J-37, J-38, J-40, H-20. Thank You and Good Luck!!



A Bee-lated thanks!



Even the modest among us are pleased when we receive a gift. A gift given when it is totally unexpected or one that comes as a complete surprise is even more meaningful. Such was the case for me when I received the personally engraved 2000-dated silver proof New Hampshire state quarter from the LTS society in appreciation and thanks for my decade of service to the organization as Secretary/Treasurer.

Skillfully engraved by John Dickson, a second generation hand engraver and jeweler of Sarasota, Florida, the quarter has THANKS at the top and LTS at the bottom. A delightful honeybee (representing beekeeping, another Newhouse hobby) is in the center while the reverse retains the important date and descriptors of the coin. I collect both love tokens and honeybee memorabilia! The coin is a unique and special gift, and it was given during the Valentine month, which is very special to the significance of Love Tokens. I feel like the Queen Bee!

While the engraved quarter would look great displayed in a collection or part of an exhibit, my choice is to wear it proudly and "promote" LTS verbally along the way. I have decided on a necklace over a pin (I do enjoy love token jewelry). Hopefully, as Bob and I adjust to the empty nest syndrome and find time for personal vs. professional trips, we will make more ANA and FUN shows and I can show you this lovely coin in person. In the meantime, know that it has found a good home, has a great story to tell and will be in this family for years to come.

In appreciation, Barb Newhouse

Ordering Love Tokens

Please make checks payable to:

Robert Higdem

8230 N. Loch Haven Drive #2

Hayden Lake, ID 83835

(208) 772-0657

higgy2000@juno.com

In remitting, please

do not forget to

include the postage as follows:

Orders up to \$50.00 add \$1.75;

up to \$100.00, add \$3.00;

up to \$150.00, add \$3.75;

up to \$200.00, add \$4.75;

up to \$300.00, add \$5.25;

up to \$400.00, add \$7.25;

over \$400.00, add \$9.00.

Love Letter

Love Token Society Newsletter



Dr. Robert C. Newhouse

5840 Tuttle Cove Road

Manhattan, KS 66503

WARNING! If this box
contains an X, this is your
last issue of the Love Letter.
Please send dues ASAP!



Love Letter

No. 195

Love Token Society Newsletter

June 2001



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Love Letter Layout/Design
Mary Hammel
Manhattan, KS

The Society's Exhibit Displayed in Baltimore

Ernie Turnes

The June 14-17, 2001 Maryland State Numismatic Association Coin Show and Convention was one that may offer some encouragement in two respects to love token collectors. One fourth of the exhibits at the show were about love tokens and we may have a former member return to our ranks as a result of the exhibits.

Before anyone gets their hopes up, I must point out that there were only eight exhibits at the show, but two were about love tokens. One of those was the one that I entered. It is the club display that Sid Gale had prepared. Sid e-mailed me the text and I edited the captions to suit the coins from my collection. In addition to love tokens, the exhibit included a copy of Lloyd Entenmann's book, Love Tokens As Engraved Coins, three issues of the Love Letter, a copy of the membership roster, and the invitation to join that I received when I first inquired about the club. Although the exhibit only received an appreciation award, it did receive several votes in the people's choice voting. With so few exhibits, the Maryland State show does not have different exhibit categories for judging purposes.

The other love token exhibit was on Jewish love tokens and included three pieces. It was entered by a gentleman who exhibits every year at our show—his was more text, mine was more coins.

The former member mentioned above is a lady who looked me up through the exhibit chairman to ask about Lloyd Entenmann. I told her what I know. She makes a love token each year for her husband's birthday. She wrote down information about our current officers and I believe she will rejoin our club.

And speaking of members, one of our educational program speakers at the show was U.S. Mint Director Jay Johnson. As part of his remarks, he mentioned a letter in the Letters to the Editor section of either Coin World or Numismatic News. He said it was written by James Sparks and asked if anyone knew him. I said that we had not met, but he is a member of the Love Token Society and we had corresponded. What are the chances of someone in a group of about thirty people knowing a person on the other side of the country who wrote a letter to the editor?

As I conclude this note, I encourage members to take advantage of the availability of the Love Token Society's exhibit. It required little work on my part and is another way to promote our hobby.



S U M M E R



Here is the text of the display that Sid Gale has put together about the Society:

Coins That Express Love

What are Love Tokens?

Through the years there has been a vast array of charming trinkets that lovers have given to one another. Thimbles, pincushions, rings, carved spoons, and flowers with symbolic meanings have all played a part in the rites of courtship. The formalization of love tokens reached its height during the sentimental Victorian age, which witnessed the birth of the ever-popular Valentine card. This period also marked the peak of popularity for using engraved coins as tokens of love.

Love tokens, such as the ones in this case, are coins that were taken from circulation and engraved with something special on them. They were made on practically all denominations of coins. They are referred to as love tokens because most were made for a special occasion and presented to the receiver as a gesture of love or affection. Some were made into jewelry items.

The purpose of this exhibit is to show the viewer examples of coins that were taken from circulation and engraved to serve as love tokens.

The Love Token Society

The Love Token Society is an organization with over 200 members. Its main purpose is to promote interest in numismatics, particularly in the field of engraved coins, more commonly called love tokens.

Through a bi-monthly newsletter, the Loveletter, and a membership directory, members write articles, exchange ideas, and buy, sell and trade love tokens. Meetings are held each year during the ANA convention and also during the FUN show in Orlando, Florida.

The Host Coin

Love tokens were made on practically all denominations of coins. During the late 1800's a man earned about 10c a day. As a result, most love tokens on U.S. coins were engraved on smaller denomination coins, particularly the Liberty Seated Dime. These silver coins were softer, thus easier to engrave, than cents and nickels. Gold coins were also used but not as frequently, considering the value that a love token on a \$1.00 gold coin represented. Within this case you have an assortment of love tokens with

Financial Statement			
General Funds			
Balance As Of March 31, 2001			\$7,204.12
Receipts			
New Members - 2			\$20.00
Membership Dues 2001 - 4			\$40.00
Membership Dues 2001 - 1			\$10.00
Interest { Bank Account }	March		\$12.56
	April		\$11.82
	May		\$ 9.22
Sale of 1 Book			\$53.00
Total Receipts			\$156.60
Subtotal			\$7,360.72
Expenses			
Check #1007 - Barbara Newhouse			
Kinko's Duplication LTS # 194			\$125.78
Postage			\$102.00
Mary Hammel (Graphics)			\$ 75.00
			\$302.78
Total Expenses			\$302.78
Balance As Of May 31, 2001			\$7,057.94
Permanent Fund - Audubon Savings and Loan Association			
1 year certificate of deposit			\$ 655.50
Membership Report			
Membership As of March 31, 2001			230
New Members			2
Membership As of May 31, 2001			209
(23 Members Dropped For Non payment of Dues)			
Sidney R. Gale - Secretary / Treasurer			
Welcome New Members !!!			
#1019	Ernest Botte	#1020	Frank J. Petersen
	P.O. Box 206		2319 Loch Way
	Wilmington, MA 01887-0206		El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

names, initials, dates, scenes and sayings. The denominations here range from 1c through a \$2.50 gold piece.

Love Token Jewelry

Love tokens were often made into pendants, pins, bracelets, watch fobs, earrings, necklaces, cufflinks, buttons, stickpins and other pieces of jewelry, a few

of which are shown here. Try to imagine what the engravings on each of these pieces may have meant to the person who received it.

"The Book"

The authoritative text on love tokens is the book, Love Tokens As Engraved Coins, written by Lloyd L. Entenmann, former president of the Love Token Society.



President's Message - Carol Harmes

♥ The Loving Family ♥

Love tokens were given by relatives as mementos of affection. It is challenging to collect the entire family. Refer to the list below for variations on family titles:

PARENTS:

1. Mother and variations: Mama, MaMa, Mamma, Mamam, Ma, and Mum.
(This category is the most common.)
2. Father and variations: Papa, Pappa, and Pa.

GRANDPARENTS:

1. Grandma
2. Grandpa

SIBLINGS:

1. Sister
2. Brother

AUNT/UNCLE:

1. Aunt and variations: Auntie, Auntie, and sometimes Aunt followed by a first name.
2. Uncle and Uncle followed by a first name.

COUSIN: Rare.

BABY: Rare.

PET: Affectionate name for child, used by a parent. Rare.

WIFE: Rare.

EXTENDED FAMILY: Nany and variations of Mamie and Mame. Nany is rare.

These love tokens can be found on overlapping categories for collecting. Family members may be present on type coins. Occasionally even gold coins are obtainable. Love token jewelry often has mother and father included in with the regular initials. See photograph below for a rare love token ring with "Mother" engraved. The rim is cut away from the coin to make the band with a reeded edge. The center part of the coin was then engraved and attached to the ring. Also available are presentation/gift coins either to or from family members. Pictorials with family titles are particularly nice to collect.

Sincerely, Carol Harmes.

Liberty seated dime love token bracelet with "Mother" and "father" on center dimes.



Clockwise from left: "Mother" (dime ring); "Father" (1883 dime); "Mother" (1891 dime); "Father" (1873 quarter); "Uncle Jim" (Great Britain 3 pence); "Sister" (1885 dime). At center: "Brother" (1827 Bust half dollar).

Last Month's Auction Prices Realized:

A-1 - \$22.00	A-15 - \$18.75	A-28 - \$22.00
A-2 - \$27.50	A-16 - \$20.25	A-29
A-3 - \$12.05	A-17 - \$27.50	A-30 - \$60.00
A-4	A-18 - \$18.00	A-31
A-5	A-19 - \$16.25	A-32 - \$49.50
A-6 - \$14.25		A-33 - \$22.50
A-7 - \$19.25	A-20 - \$44.00	A-34 - \$363.00
A-8 - \$16.50	A-21 - \$47.00	A-35
A-9	A-22 - \$49.50	A-36 - \$51.70
A-10 - \$16.50	A-23 - \$80.00	A-37 - \$75.00
A-11 - \$16.50	A-24	A-38 - \$32.50
A-12 - \$16.50	A-25 - \$44.00	A-39 - \$7.00
A-13 - \$14.75	A-26 - \$38.50	A-40 - \$143.00
A-14 - \$14.75	A-27 - \$38.00	A-41

No price realized means the bidding failed to meet the consignor's reserved price. The most spirited bidding was as follows:

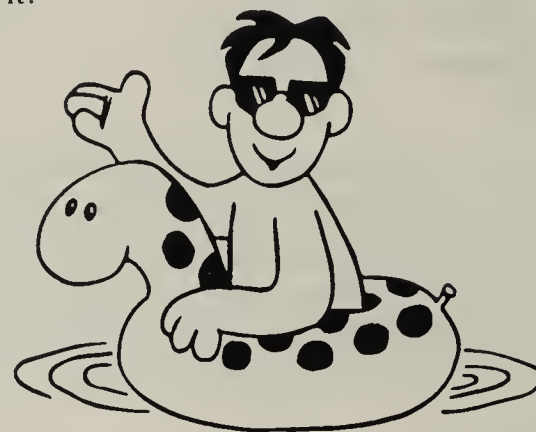
Lot #	# of Bids
A-25	11
A-26	10
A-30, 36, 40	9
A-34	8

Correction:

In the April 2001 issue of the Loveletter, I was erroneous both in my comment regarding Mr. Ron Rowswell's purchase of a matched set of love tokens and in the spelling of his name. In reality, it was he who originally wished to purchase the set together and not split them apart. I incorrectly inferred that he had to be "talked into" buying them together. To Mr. Rowswell, I extend my apologies.

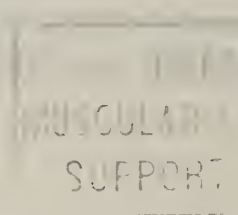
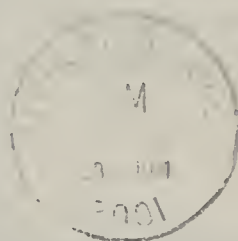
Plea:

Anyone wishing to sell love tokens through the Loveletter may do so by contacting Robert Higdem (see page 1 for address). You may also simply send the pieces you wish to sell directly to Mr. Higdem along with a letter describing your asking prices. But remember to insure you package before you mail it!



Love Letter

Love Token Society Newsletter



Dr. Robert C. Newhouse
5840 Tuttle Cove Road
Manhattan, KS 66503

Carol Harmes
1509 Main Street
Sarasota FL
34236





Love Letter

No. 196

Love Token Society Newsletter

August 2001



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Love Letter Layout/Design
Mary Hammel
Manhattan, KS

Banjo Picker's Delight

David E. Schenkman

Much to the dismay of my parents, both of whom were classically trained, professional musicians, I play the banjo. In addition, I own Turtle Hill Banjo Company, which specializes in buying and selling banjos. So, when I spotted this token in a recent auction, naturally I had to buy it. The host coin is a silver 1858 Seated Liberty half dollar. The reverse has been planed smooth and carries the engraved legend KITTIE PROCTOR BANJOIST in three lines (see below).

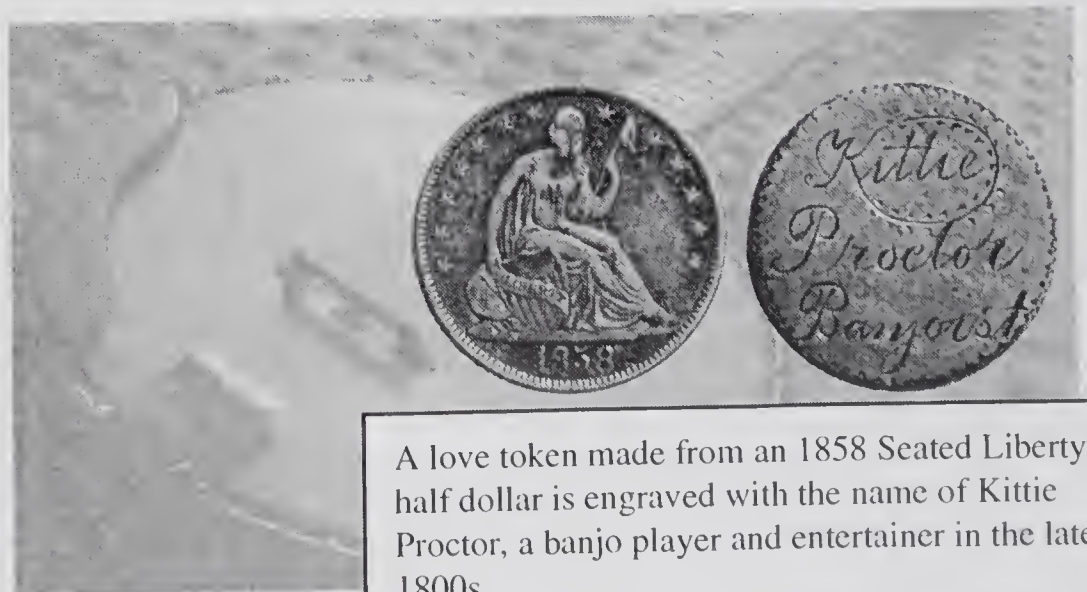
I imagine most collectors are familiar with the hand-engraved coins usually referred to as "love tokens." (I should point out that the term is used to describe various types of engraved coins, some of which have nothing to do with love. A number were engraved to commemorate events, serve as awards or make political statements.) Most commonly, the engraving consists of a name or monogrammed initials on a small, silver coin, such as a Seated Liberty dime.

The pieces often are skillfully executed and very ornate. A man might have a dime engraved with his initials or name, and then present it to the lady who had won his heart. The intent was that it be worn, either on a necklace or a bracelet. Thus, many love tokens have small holes or soldered-on loops.

Less frequently encountered are love tokens with engraved scenes. These miniature works of art are much more popular with collectors than coins bearing just initials. On some, the scene occupies an entire side, with initials or a name engraved on the other.

Certain generic scenes seem to have been particularly popular. I've seen many waterfowl views, usually with a sailboat in the background. Lighthouses and birds are recurring themes.

The most desirable type of love token is, in my opinion, one that portrays something very unusual, such as a bicycle, a horsedrawn streetcar, a set of surgical instruments or possibly a detailed mining scene. Or, it could depict a banjo, which brings me to the topic of this column. (continued on page 3)



A love token made from an 1858 Seated Liberty half dollar is engraved with the name of Kittie Proctor, a banjo player and entertainer in the late 1800s.

Letter to the Editor

(The editor regrets that he has misplaced the contributor's name—please contact him for proper credit.)

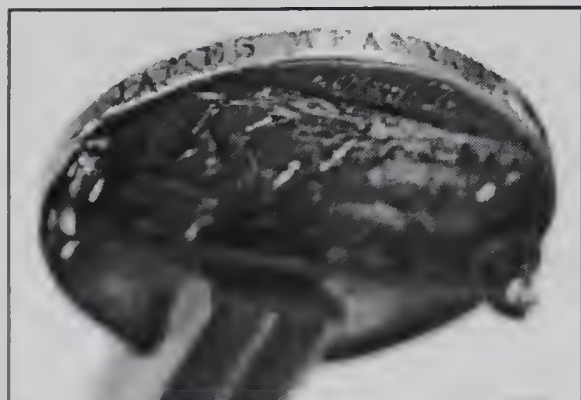
Enclosed are some photos (below) of one of the most interesting love tokens I have ever seen. I have been told that the base coin or medal was given to an elite group of soldiers that were British in origin yet stationed in India.

It's obvious they were from the Army of the Punjab. But this individual soldier belonged to the 1st European Fusiliers and his name was James Meany.

I am not a student of love tokens but this is the first one I've encountered that is personalized on the edge as well.



Personalized Edge



Financial Statement

General Funds

Balance as of May 31, 2001 \$7,057.94

Receipts

New Members	1	\$10.00
Membership Dues 2001	1	\$10.00
Interest (Bank Account)	37043	\$9.22
	37073	\$9.29

Total Receipts \$38.51

Subtotal \$7,096.45

Expenses

Check #1008 - Robert Newhouse (Newsletter)	\$246.24
Check #1009 - Lloyd Entenmann (Book Sales)	\$200.00

Total Expenses \$446.24

Balance as of July 31, 2001 \$6,650.21

Permanent Fund - Audubon Savings and Loan Association

1 Year certificate of deposit \$655.55

Membership Report

Membership as of May 31, 2001	209
New Members	1
Reinstated Member	1
Deceased	1
Membership as of July 31, 2001	210

Sidney Gale, Secretary/Treasurer

Welcome New Members!

#1021 Kris Kohne
3319 N. Monte Vista Dr.
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

Deceased

Danny Robinson
Macon, GA

Note from the Webmaster

Our web host went out of business and shut down our web page. I hope to get the Love Token Society our own domain name and build another website by the beginning of September. If anyone has experience with web page development, I would appreciate your assistance.

- Sid Gale



President's Message - Carol Harmes

ANA 2001- Atlanta

The Early Bird Gets the Worm: Not Always and There Is More Than One Worm!

By getting to a coin show too late, one inevitably misses some neat love tokens. I was late combing the bourse area this year, but still successful. I Hate it when I see what I missed, although it does add to my research base. A nice pin was sold on PNG (Professional Numismatic Guild) day, a one-day invitation-only event the day before the ANA show opens. It was a bar pin but had three graduated love tokens dangling from it. They ranged in size from a silver dollar to half dimes, and even included a twenty cent piece, a whole silver type set in a most unusually constructed design. None of us could have purchased it, because it had already been promised to someone.

The ones I really missed out on were two enameled pictorials, a jeweled stick pin, and a dime bracelet with colored stones. I was unable to look for love tokens because I worked on my exhibit and took a class for love token judge certification. Unfortunately that meant I was delayed in seeing the show until late Wednesday and Thursday. Even so, I was very excited to find four rare items.

After twelve years of searching, I finally found a Liberty twenty dollar gold love token which was also a pictorial, anniversary, family member, and presentation piece in addition to being a rare type coin. The only reason it was still there was the price. The other items were a 1799 Bust dollar, a gold overlay pictorial dime, and a 2-1/2 dollar gold classic head variety. All are quite rare.

Anyway, back to the worm. Other people turned up great items even after I went through the show. It is hard to see everything at every table and items can be missed unless one asks for love tokens specifically. Not all love tokens are on display and some can easily hide in a case. My husband even bought two (I had not seen) for me on Friday.

The 1799 dollar was the only love token in the case. Others may not have seen it or passed on it because of the price, quality of engraving, or condition of the coin. All of these bothered me as well, but I bought it for its rarity. One could look for a lifetime and not find another.

The second reason to keep looking is that dealers acquire new items during the show. This was the case with the 2-1/2 dollar classic head which I purchased on Sunday morning, the LAST day of the show. Others found nice love tokens this way too.

The pictorial gold overlay dime, like the twenty, was pricey. Although it is not as much fun to find the high or overpriced items, everyone has different criteria. What is expensive to one collector is not necessarily to another, and a price for a rarity must be considered.



Carol Harmes in front of love token exhibit "Love Tokens for the Family," exhibited at ANA 2001 in Atlanta. Awards from left to right: 1st place in Love Token category; 2nd runner-up for Howland Wood Memorial Award for Best-in-Show Exhibit; Thomas H. Law Award for best of First Time Exhibitors.



Banjo Picker's Delight *continued from page 1*



Because of my interest in banjos, I collect numismatic items that relate to or picture them. Although specimens are not easy to find, my collection includes such diverse items as a medal from the 1893 Columbian Exposition that mentions a "banjo artist"; a small, brass trade token issued by the West Virginia Banjo Company; a large, silver medal from the Harvard banjo Club; and, of course, a few love tokens.

Two of the love tokens in my collection are Seated Liberty dimes, each of which has three initials on one side and a neatly engraved banjo on the other. I assume they were "love" tokens in the truest sense of the word, and were given by banjo players to their lady-friends. Another piece, which I have owned for any years, is an 1840 Seated Liberty dime engraved with L.F. EHLE. BANJOIST. DANVILLE N.Y.

My newest acquisition is somewhat of a mystery. Who was Kittie Proctor, and why was this half dollar engraved for her? The only information I have was the auction-lot description: "Kittie Proctor Morrissey was a soft shoe dancer with her husband Tommy Morrissey, back... in the Gay Nineties."

Cited as the source of this information was the Library of Congress Performing Arts Poster Collection, so I visited its Internet site. There I found an 1890s illustration of Kittie and her husband, titled, "The original Kid Globe Duo." The caption read, "Tommy Morrissey and Kittie Proctor: America's soft shoe double dancers."

A close inspection of the edge of Kittie's token reveals two small areas that appear to have been soldered, suggesting a loop may have been affixed at one time. I assume she wore the piece on a chain around her neck.

I welcome reader's comments and questions about tokens or medals. Write to me at P.O. Box 366, Bryantown, MD 20617. If a reply is desired, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Reprinted courtesy of The Numismatist, official publication of the American Numismatic Association, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279, www.money.org.

Link Between Love and Coins Still Exists

by J. Pearson Andrew

In the First Epistle of Paul to Timothy we are told that, "The love of money is the root of all evil."

In Chansons Nationales et Populaires de France we read: "It's love, it's love that makes the world go round."

A popular song of this century reveals that, "Money makes the world go round."

Hearing in conversation the other day that money was round so that it went round—i.e. facilitated spending—set me pondering on the relationship that exists or existed between love and coins.

Quite surprisingly research was not in vain. One Victorian tome revealed that:

"On All-Hallows Eve Derbyshire girls put a spring of rosemary and a crooked sixpence under their pillows in order that they may dream of their future husbands."

Books on folklore cited numerous examples of crooked, bent or bowed coins being given at betrothals as love tokens. Could this possibly explain those bent coins that collectors are far from happy to see? One friend of the present writer spent many years considering how a particularly fine and rare, but unfortunately bent, gold piece may be straightened. Needless to say, he decided it was impossible.

Why our ancestors had this fad about bent coins cannot be answered with any certainty. Quite possibly to preserve the amuletic property of the piece, it was defaced so as to prevent it from being placed into circulation.

The will of a gentleman, who would appear to be an early 16th century "Cassanova-type," certainly causes one to wonder if his exploits, which are alas unknown, would not have made a certain box-office hit:

"I bequeath him my rope of bowed nobles... containing ccc angles." (Will of Sir Edward Howard, 1512)

With 300 gold love tokens to his credit I doubt whether Sir Edward wore them as a chain of office; it would surely have cramped his style.

For those who led less complicated lives and had but one lover, or even, dare I suggest, two, then the coin, pierced and possibly also bowed would be worn around the neck of the receiver. Where distance may possibly have parted the lovers for long periods, then it was known for the love token to be halved and a piece retained by each party as a talisman. Sailors in the days of old were known to wear half a coin as a pierced earring for protection against drowning.

Worn coins (particularly halfpennies) of the period 1760-1800, were frequently engraved with a name, a monogram, two names or a fanciful design such as a love knot or Cupid's arrow, etc. Although the coins are of the 18th century it does not mean that the pieces are necessarily 18th century love token; most likely they related to the next century. For example, there is the plaintive flat disc, previously a coin, which bears the heartbreaking inscription:

Obverse: Peter Hart aged 22, 1833;
Transported for 7 years August 1833; Reverse: When this you see Remember me and bear me in your mind Let all the world say what they will Don't prove to me unkind.

Whether Peter was reunited with his sweetheart, seven years on, is not known. However, the scratched quality of the engraving, linked with the circumstances, suggests that lovesick Peter worked away while in some stinking dark cell; maybe he did not even survive the voyage.

The Chinese, according to one source, placed several sets of five coins, of different Emperors, under the bed of newly married couples. Unfortunately I cannot ascertain why and I will leave this to the reader's imagination. Omnia munda mundis.

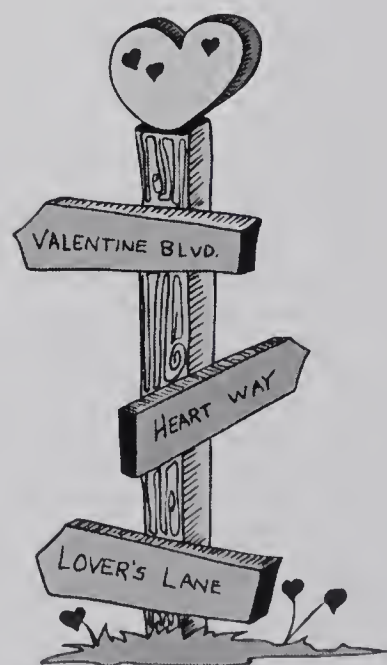
It is time to move away from romance and pure love and to turn our attention, albeit briefly, to the carnal desire of man.

Joseph Addison wrote an essay called: "The Adventures of a Shilling" in which an animated shilling tells of a recruiting sergeant who...

"sacrificed me to his pleasures, and made use of me to seduce a milk-maid. This wench bent me and gave me to her sweetheart applying more properly than she intended the usual form of "To my love and from my love."

Now I turn to the Chinese again. Chinese trade tokens are rare and there is little literature published on the subject. Even rarer are tokens issued by the "Sing-Song" houses or brothels. The custom centered around Soochow and Hangchow and those patrons having an account with the establishment were issued these pieces. They would be used to pay those who escorted the client to the house and looked after him while he was there. Only the Chinese could devise such a system!

Alas, love tokens in the true form of coins no longer play the same role in betrothals and I seriously doubt if "Sing-Song" house tokens still exist. However, you must excuse me now; I have a coin to bend before I depart for the evening. Love is an antic thing.



Not So Much A Love Token...

by Paul Harthoorn

My collection of engraved coins contains many items which do not fall under the category of "love tokens." Just the opposite. I am thinking of tokens with a political message. With a slight risk of being drummed out of our society, I must admit that I find them more interesting than all those silver dimes and threepences with a name or an incomprehensible monogram!

Fortunately I am quite safe, because our president has listed them as a semi-related category. Such tokens are seldom attractive, more often decidedly ugly, so why do I like them? Simply because they trigger research into the meaning of the message.

I did just that with the following two copper tokens. Only by their size can one assume that they are Georgian halfpennies, because they are worn flat without any visible detail. Quite inexpertly—the lettering dances all over the place—someone has punched a text on both sides. He has used small letter punches of approximately 2mm size. It reads on one token: "LAND IN PAROCHIAL PARTNERSHIP" and on the reverse: "AND SMALL FARMS." On the other coin: "SPENCE'S PLAN SPENCE'S YOU FOOLS" followed by: "7 EVERY BLESSING."



Who was this Spence? Was he a farmer? What was this plan? In "Who's Who in British History", a Thomas Spence (1750-1814) is described either as a "forerunner of communism", "a crank", or "a harmless and peripheral figure amongst the radicalists". As an impoverished schoolmaster from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, he came to London in 1792, where he tried to make a living by peddling tracts in the streets from a barrow. He was promptly arrested for selling Paine's "Rights of Man", but acquitted. He also produced political tokens of halfpenny and farthing size and it appears that I possess two of such items.

How radical was our Thomas? Pauline Gregg writes in her "A Social and Economic History of Britain" that early in the 19th

century people like Godwin, Paine, Cobbett, Spence and Charles Hall condemned the particular form which industrialism in Britain had assumed. They "broadcast" their ideas in various meetings. In spite of the fact that Thomas Spence was only a minnow in this shoal, it is his name that keeps popping up and even after his death gave rise to the "Society of Spencean Philanthropists."

The basic doctrine of the Spenceans was that the ownership of agricultural land needed an overhaul. Ownership of land was, as they claimed, a "natural right of all men" and that "his birthright had been stolen from him."

This was not far from the truth. A little earlier small British farmers had suffered a spate of "Enclosure Acts," whereby big landowners were able to seize common land and turn their occupants into mere paupers. The Spenceans proposed a form of land nationalization. The parishes would own the land and rent it out to farmers. The rent thus obtained would serve as a "single tax" and provide for all public expenditure.

Two years after Spence's death, the Spenceans organized a public demonstration in London. They invited Henry Hunt,

the leading orator of the radicals, to be their speaker. Understandably the government, which counted amongst its members many rich landowners, was alarmed and attempted to suppress such movements. They successfully used infiltrators and agents provocateurs to incite groups of demonstrators into militant action by making them believe that they had a huge following, only to drive them into the guns of the armed forces.

By the year 1820 most disturbances had been suppressed and the name of Spence disappeared into the history books... only to dug out again after finding some ugly looking copper tokens.

Getting Engraved Coins Into the Meetings of Regular Coin Clubs

The night before a recent Baltimore Coin Club meeting I assembled 12 lots of coins to sell through the club auction (held at every meeting). Just for fun, I added one more— a love token engraved MW (or WM). I say just for fun because there is only one other club member who I would describe as a collector, and his interest is casual at best. I set a price just slightly above what I paid for the piece.

Because all club members know that I collect love tokens, what I expected to happen was that members would say, "Did you see that there is a love token on the board?" While that did happen, the big surprise was that there was actually some bidding for the piece, meaning that it sold for above the minimum that I had set.

I must say that members of the Baltimore Coin Club are showing a little more interest in what you and I collect.







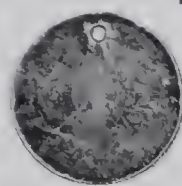
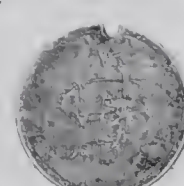











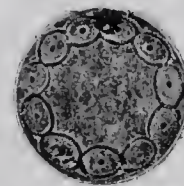





















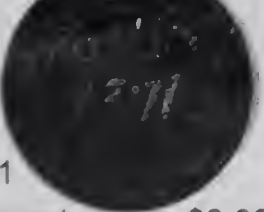




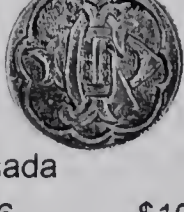
- Ernie Turnes






A Birth Love Token

The wife of a friend at work had their first child in July. When he returned to work, I gave him a dime love token with his new daughter's initials, along with an article from The Love Letter that explains what love tokens are. He seemed very appreciative. To my friend's daughter I suppose you could say that this is a birth love token.

- Ernie Turnes

G-1  1877 \$8.00	G-2  1877 \$8.00	G-3  1883 \$8.00	G-4  1884 \$8.00	G-5  reeded edge blank rev. \$8.00	D-1  1877 \$10.00
J-1  reeded edge blank rev. \$6.00	J-2  1884 \$6.00	J-3  1876 \$6.00	J-4  10c Seat. Lib. \$8.00	J-5  <185?> \$8.00	J-6  1876 \$8.00
J-7  1876 \$8.00	J-8  1877 \$8.00	J-9  1877 \$8.00	J-10  1877 \$8.00	J-11  188? \$8.00	J-12  1884 \$8.00
J-13  1886 \$8.00	J-14  <1853> \$9.00	J-15  1872 \$9.00	J-16  1875 \$9.00	J-17  1876 \$9.00	J-18  1877 \$9.00
J-19  1877 \$9.00	J-20  1882 \$9.00	J-21  1882 \$9.00	J-22  1884 \$9.00	J-23  1886 \$9.00	J-24  1888 \$9.00
J-25  1889 \$9.00	J-26  1875 \$10.00	J-27  1875 \$10.00	J-28  1877 \$10.00	J-29  1887 \$10.00	J-30  Canada 10c \$10.00
J-31  reeded edge non-USA \$12.00	J-32  reeded edge blank rev \$12.00	J-33  1887 \$12.00	J-34  1890 \$12.00	Z-1  Two 1/2 dimes that are soldered together. Part of a 3rd 1/2 dime attached to the right. 1860 1857 \$12.00	
Z-2  .01 Canada \$3.00	Z-3  Canada 10c \$6.00	Z-4  <1853> \$8.00	Z-5  1876 \$8.00	Z-6  Canada 10c \$10.00	Z-7  Canada 1896 \$10.00

Z-8  25c Happy 1817 Grt. Brit. \$12.00	Z-9  1817 Grt. Brit. \$12.00	Z-10  w/ quill pen 1857 \$15.00	Notes: Item # Z-8 is slightly worn. This makes it possible for the word to possibly be "Hoppy" or even "Hippy" (doubtful on that second one). Also, Item # Z-2 has "1901" lightly engraved or scratched on the reverse over the date. Item # Z-9 is a shilling.
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Greetings Fellow Love Token Collectors!

My name is Steve Tompkins. I have been collecting love tokens for about seven years. While primarily a collector of U.S. Capped Bust Halves by die marriage (1807-1836), I found my way into collecting love tokens when I found a bust half with one side shaved off and my initials engraved on it. I then proceeded to look for more bust half love tokens but to my dismay there aren't many out there! In looking for engraved bust coins I discovered the world of love tokens and have been actively pursuing them ever since.

As you may or may not know, Robert Higdem has stepped down as love token sales manager. I know that in speaking to Robert, it was a decision that he both needed to make and wished he didn't have to make. We all wish Robert the best and extend our appreciation to him for a job well done! Thanks Robert!

In speaking with Robert, I expressed my interest in taking over the sales job. I spoke with Carol Harmes and met with her at ANA to transfer the current lots and information to me so I could get started. The current sale was ready for printing when I spoke

with Carol, so for this sale everything has remained the same as before as far as layout and such. Please send all requests for coins, payment, future auction lots, and any suggestions or information to my address listed below. I will be taking a look at improving and expanding the sales and mail bids. If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail or call any time.

These engraved pieces are forever a part of our history, a link to another time and place, a reminder of where we have been, and an almost lost form of artistic expression. So cherish these tokens of love and keep and preserve them to pass on to the next generation. The sacrifices that were made to produce and then give them away to the ones they cared most about. I for one will always wonder and imagine the sentiment behind these wonderful works of art and love. Happy Hunting!

Steve Tompkins
8510 Pershing
Raytown, MO 64138
(816) 699-2235
smt115@aol.com



Love Token Exhibit Stands Out

There were over seventy exhibits at ANA 2001, five of which were love tokens. This was a strong showing compared to previous years. "Love Tokens for the family" won first place in its class. It contained most of my collection on family designations, including some I have seen only one or two of in my years of collecting. The scarcer ones are Mum, Dad, Wife, Baby, Pet, Cousin, Maman, and Brother. Unusual type coins, foreign coins, and jewelry were integrated with the family designation criteria.

The exhibit also won the Thomas H. Law Award for best new exhibitor. I did not think I could get any happier until it was announced that "Love Tokens for the family" won the Howland Wood Memorial Award for Best-in-Show Exhibit second runner up. I never imagined it would happen, and was amazed at all the compliments I received. I feel privileged to be an ambassador for our hobby, and I hope love token collecting gets some extra attention as a result. *Thanks again to Sid Gale for bugging me to exhibit—Carol Harmes*

MY EXHIBITING EXPERIENCE:

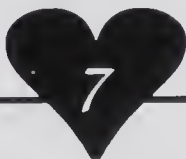
Carol Harmes

Murphy's law was in full force during the making of my exhibit. I had to use six different kinds of glue and tape to hold down fabric, paper, board, and postcards. The most difficult gluing was on the background fabric, which kept wanting to peel up from the board around the edges. One glue left lumps, which had to be redone.

There was a problem with a divot in the photocopies of the text. Somehow the ink rubbed off around that area. Making changes after the exhibit was laid out did not help. As I faced all these problems and more while working sixty plus hours, I began to think of winning best new exhibitor award as well as first in my category. This helped to motivate me to stick with it.

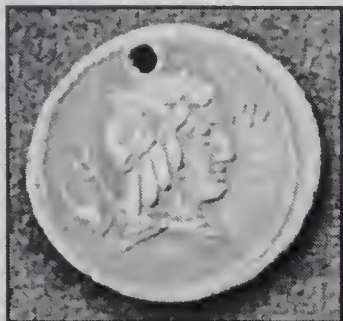
By far the worst episode was the night I did not go to bed until 4:30 a.m. and was up at 6 a.m. for the eight hour drive to Atlanta. My husband had loaded the car except for the glass mirrors and display items for the exhibit. I carefully made my way down the stairs in the twilight and somehow missed the last step. I landed flat on my face. Of course the only broken mirror was the irreplaceable one. It was a large etched heart shape made in France. After looking at it in disbelief, I realized that I might be able to salvage the border and place it on top of a plain mirror. Then I packed a hammer, chisel, screwdrivers, and glue and stopped at a craft store somewhere in Georgia. Thanks, Sid Gale, for always telling me I should exhibit!

When I told parts of this story to other exhibitors, I was surprised to see a lot of heads nodding. Such problems are common, but do not let it discourage you from exhibiting. There are many personal satisfactions as well as exhibiting awards to be gained from the experience.



Correction: Love Tokens From Around the World

Pictured is a Roman Republic coin from the first century B.C. Somehow in my recent article, Germany/Bremen state was listed as 1st century B.C. This is not correct. The two were somehow transposed.



Additions to the list were sent in by John Dabbert. He adds:

Germany: Schleswig Holstein

Hamburg

Ionian Islands (islands off Greece)

China: Kwang-Tung Province

Ireland

Honduras

Nicaragua

Good job John! Anyone else have some more?

Sincerely, Carol Harmes

Ordering Love Tokens

Please make checks payable to:

Steve Tompkins

8510 Pershing

Raytown, MO 64138

(816) 699-2235

smt115@aol.com

In remitting, please do not forget to
include the postage as follows:

Orders up to \$50.00 add \$1.75;

up to \$100.00, add \$3.00;

up to \$150.00, add \$3.75;

up to \$200.00, add \$4.75;

up to \$300.00, add \$5.25;

up to \$400.00, add \$7.25;

over \$400.00, add \$9.00.

Love Letter

Love Token Society Newsletter



Dr. Robert C. Newhouse

5840 Tuttle Cove Road

Manhattan, KS 66503



Love Letter

No. 197

Love Token Society Newsletter

October-November 2001



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Love Letter Layout/Design

Mary Hammel
Manhattan, KS

Orphanage Featured on Love Token

Ernie Turnes

A fellow member of the Baltimore Coin Club gave me an article from the September 11, 2001 issue of Numismatic News titled, "Love Token Find raises Questions." The author tells the story of attending a Wausau, Wisconsin coin show and finding a Seated Liberty half dollar (1861) with the reverse inscribed Soldiers Orphans/ Home/ The Reward/ is Ours. A few weeks later he found a complimentary piece, a post card featuring a Soldiers' Orphans' Home in Normal, Illinois. He states that the finds raise many questions. Is it the same home? Are there others of these homes? Who made the token and who was it made for?

If you know anything about this you may want to contact Joel Edler (the author), 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990-0001.

Note: It's nice to see stories about love tokens other than at St. Valentine's Day!



Postcard (above) and coin (left) featuring
Soldiers' Orphans' Home.



Note From The Webmaster



I am in the process of obtaining a domain name for the Love Token Society. I think it will be: "lovetokensociety.com".

I have also located an experienced web page designer who will be able to take my input and turn it into a professional appearing web page.



Call for Materials for the Love Letter

We need your help!

We encourage all members to send in articles, stories or photos of interest to love token collectors, or letters to the editor. Send all materials to:

Robert C. Newhouse
Love Letter Editor
5840 Tuttle Cove Road
Manhattan, KS 66503
(785) 539-1831
rcn@ksu.edu



Financial Statement

General Funds

Balance As Of July 31,2001 \$6,650.21

Receipts

New Members (3)		\$30.00
Membership Dues 2001		\$0.00
Membership Dues 2002		\$20.00
Interest {Bank Account}	31-Jul	\$8.92
	3-Sep	\$9.82
Sale of Book		\$50.00

Total Receipts \$118.74

Subtotal \$6,768.95

Expenses

Check #1010	\$240.05
Robert Newhouse (LL#196)	
Mary Hammel - Graphic Art	\$75.00
Kinko's	\$89.93
Postage- U.S.	\$68.00
Postage- International	\$7.12

Total Expenses \$240.05

Balance as of September 31, 2001 \$6,528.90

Permanent Fund

Audubon Savings and Loan Association	
1 year certificate of deposit	\$655.55

Membership Report

Membership As of July 31,2001	210
New Members	3
Reinstated Member	0
Deceased	0
Membership As Of Sept. 31, 2001	213

Sidney R. Gale - Secretary /Treasurer

Welcome New Members!

#1022 Charles Turner
1675 Todd Ave
Louisville, KY 40213

#1024 Howard A. Espey
8622 S.W. 116th Lane Rd.
Ocala, FL 34481

#1023 Bill Lane
162 Camelot
Gray, GA. 31032

President's Message - Carol Harmes

Love Tokens: Mutilation or Art?

This question has really already been answered, particularly by love token collectors who show great interest and continue collecting. There was a time though when these engraved coins literally were plucked from the 90% junk silver bins and possibly saved from the melting pot. Love tokens have received ever increasing interest and popularity in recent years. Pictorials and other unusual material have doubled in price since I started collecting twelve years ago. Auctions and ebay have captured a large audience of collectors and may have influenced these new prices, with many people vying for a limited amount of material.

Most people today recognize love tokens as art, a unique form of folk art. There is still the occasional dealer who cringes when he sees a high grade or rare date engraved coin. As collectors seek out these coins and escalate prices, even reluctant dealers have to realize their importance. Occasionally though, one finds an example that can more aptly be described as having graffiti, a light scratching on the surface made without proper engraving tools. Deliberate marks with no special meaning are simply mutilated coins. Names or initials are occasionally scratched on a coin with no surface preparation, care, planning, or forethought. German thalers from the fifteen and sixteen hundreds were most afflicted by this form of graffiti, as well as damage from being soldered into jewelry. These marks are often removed by expert repair. One must keep in mind that when these coins were altered, they were only worth face value. Many exist today because they were altered, kept in the family, and handed down through the generations.

Folk art is produced by people without benefit of art training, often using readily available objects. The result can be a charmingly unique quality which is not influenced by mainstream artistic ideas. Most often portraits and hands are fashioned awkwardly and full figures including faces are misproportioned. Objects have the stylized quality of children's drawing.

The predecessors of love tokens in this country were engraved English coins dating to the late 1600's, through the 1700's, and into the early 1800's. Most early English engraved coins and convict tokens usually on large copper coins, appear to have been fashioned by amateurs. A trained engraver uses a variety of gravers (engraving tools) to give different textures. The expert also holds the graver at different angles to produce varied thicknesses and slants of lines.

Most early English pieces have a simple straight cut line and were probably made by a single tool. An alternative technique called pinpunching was produced using a nail or an awl to stipple words or pictures onto the surface of the coin, creating an image made entirely from dots. Professional engravers of book illustrations used dotting as a technique to show both shading and additional dimension. Today newspaper and book publishers print pictures by a dot technique. Gone are the days of etched pictures for books as well as the hand engraved coins.

Other clues that English tokens were made by novices occur in the layout. Often the centering of words is not well planned, and letters occasionally change in size. Some of the most endearing "defects" are when not enough room is left to finish a word or the word is misspelled and then corrected. The last few letters may be quite small or longer words may continue on the next line with no hyphen. Some misspelled words are never corrected, but others may have a small letter added above the word, a technique still used today in hand written text. Many early English engraved coins have recurring or stylized themes such as hearts pierced by arrows, ships, joined hands, birds, and flowers.

American love tokens from the later part of the 19th century have both similarities and differences from their English counterparts. Most of these pieces appear to be professionally produced by skilled engravers who used more shading techniques, such as parallel lines or crosshatching, to produce a more dimensional effect in contrast to the early English outlined designs. Although the technical engraving is more advanced, the engravers were not necessarily trained as artists. The more common pictorials are birds, flowers, and landscapes which are also stylized like the earlier English engravings.

Birds are usually shown from a side view and are often in flight. More thought and artistic training are required to portray subjects differently from the stylized way of the intellectual concept. Similarly flowers and leaves are usually shown from the most recognizable angle. Stems may be shown from a side view and the flowers and leaves are rotated at a ninety degree angle to show a view that would normally be seen from above.

There is an age (7-9 years) when children draw a landscape with a simple stylized house, a tree with a circular top (lollipop tree), "v" shaped birds, and the sun with rays in the top corner of the page. These are symbols for objects and are a formula drawn again and again.

The formula for the generic love token landscape has a simple house, water, mountains, sometimes a bridge, and occasionally those "v" shaped birds. These works although individual and different still share stylized subject matter. The charming quality of folk art is the result of the incongruities created by the combining of childlike stylization typical of untrained artists with the more sophisticated thinking of adults, especially when combined with true inborn artistic aptitude. Only comparatively recently has folk art been appreciated for its intrinsic artistic value. Love tokens are one of the smallest representations of folk art and have been under appreciated in years past.



From the Vice President - Pat Hammond

Hi all, hope everyone is doing just fine and enjoying life and their love token collection as much as I am. I was "surfing" on the computer the other day and came across this story. I certainly hope everyone gets a kick out of reading it as I did.

There was a crooked man and he walked a crooked mile. He found a crooked sixpence against a crooked stile. He bought a crooked cat, which caught a crooked mouse. And they all lived together in a crooked house.

What's this got to do with metal detecting you might be thinking? I certainly was. Well the reference to the crooked sixpence is the link to metal detecting. There really were such items as crooked sixpences. They were created and kept as good luck charms along with numerous others thought of as bringers of good fortune. As the saying goes, an old English superstition decreed that a bent coin should always be kept in a pocket or purse to ensure that its owner would always have a good amount of money and luck.

There was another purpose too. In medieval times, until at least the late 16th century, it was customary for a man to bend a copper coin and give it to his sweetheart as a token of his love and intention of marriage. They were never spent and were always carried by the woman as a demonstration of her loyalty and as a constant reminder to her each time she opened her purse. There was a difference between the good luck symbols and those given as love tokens, however. Those bent to bring financial luck were usually just simply bent through the center, whereas

those made for love were usually bowed or even cup shaped. The first settlers also took these customs to America and they survived into the 19th century.

In later centuries, especially the 18th and 19th centuries, coins were still used as love tokens. They were hand made, created by the young men to give to their sweethearts and in some instances were given by soldiers and sailors before they went abroad in case they were to die. These examples were always flat. The poorer working classes usually made their love tokens from copper coins, while a wealthy man might use a silver or gold coin. The coin was rubbed down, usually on both sides, until the monarch's head, Britannia, and other details of design had been removed. The man then engraved or stamped his own pattern and wording onto the blank disc. Some of the decorations varied from finely designed examples down to very crude ones.

They included symbols of romance, such as hearts pierced with arrows, Cupid's bow and arrow, flowers, love birds and lover's knots, with either the initials of the maker or the receiver or both. In Victorian times a variety of love tokens were introduced. These were usually farthings, silver threepenny pieces or sometimes even sovereigns. All types, from all ages, can be found with a metal detector and make a nice piece in a display case. Maybe after reading this, you'll go out and find one! I hope so!

- Pat Hammond



Love Letter

Love Token Society Newsletter



Dr. Robert C. Newhouse
5840 Tuttle Cove Road
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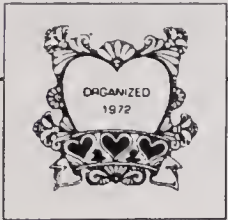


Love Letter

No. 198

Love Token Society Newsletter

December 2001



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Take the Love Token Challenge

Carol Harmes

Answer these questions yourself and then turn to page 3 for additional information.

TRUE OR FALSE

- ☐ 1. Dimes were used most often for love tokens because they were a good size and silver is a soft metal, therefore easily engraved.
- ☐ 2. Love tokens are coins which have been smoothed down on one or two sides and then hand engraved.
- ☐ 3. A coin with initials engraved backwards is a seal used for wax impressions.
- ☐ 4. Monogrammed love tokens with looping letters and fancier scrollwork indicate a greater skill level by the engraver.
- ☐ 5. In a monogram, coloring a letter indicates enamel applied to the coin.
- ☐ 6. When deciphering triple overlapping initials, the tallest letter is the last name and the widest is the first name.
- ☐ 7. Congress passed a law in 1909 making it illegal to mutilate U.S. coins.
- ☐ 8. This law put an end to love token production.

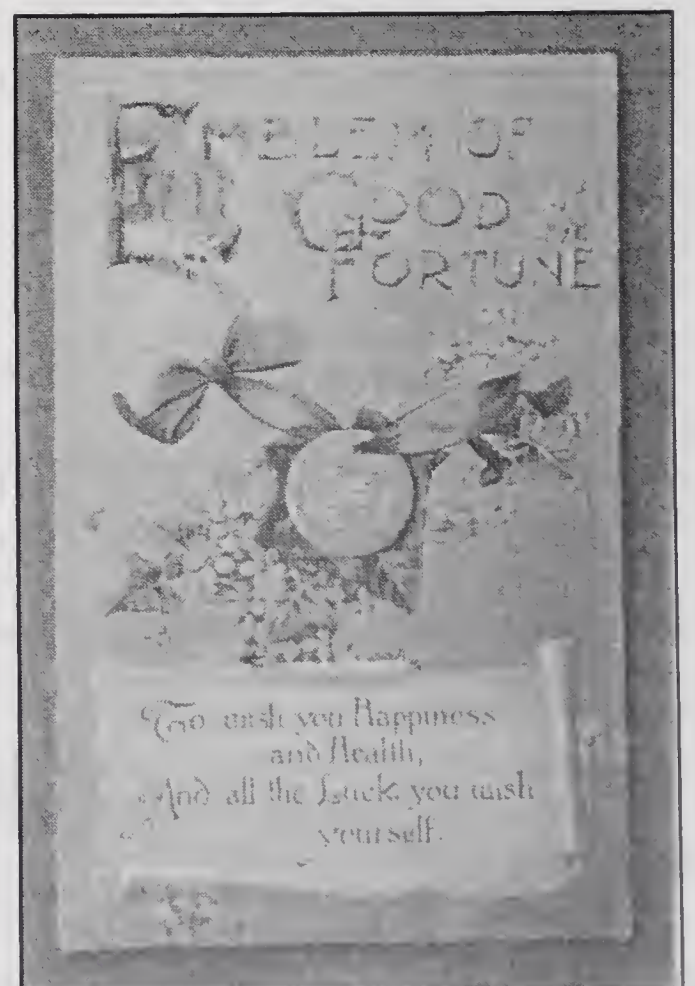
MULTIPLE CHOICE

Love tokens are:

- a) valentines
- b) engraved coins
- c) thimbles
- d) all of the above

Love tokens are:

- a) bent coins
- b) glass rolling pins
- c) sewing items such as thimbles and knitting needle sheaths
- d) all of the above
- e) none of the above



Note From The Webmaster



www.lovetokensociety.org !!!!

The Love Token Society web page is now available to visit. It is not yet complete but will be in the near future. We have our own domain name, www.lovetokensociety.org.

Please visit the site and then provide any comments to help improve it. If you have a love token or an item of jewelry that you would like to see on the web page just send a picture of it and I will put it on.

From the Treasurer

The dues for 2002 will be due as of January 1st. I will be sending the dues notices out sometime around December 15th. The dues will be \$10.00. Members located outside of the U.S.—please send your payments by international money orders payable in U.S. funds.

**There will be a Love Token
Meeting at the F.U.N. Show
Friday, January 11, 2002
Room 231b
1:00 p.m.**



Letter to the Editor

Robert,

You are the keeper of what appears to be a valuable commodity—past issues of the *Love Letter*. What are they worth these days? How about \$17.39 for eight issues that were published from 1988 to 1991. That's \$2.17 per copy. What is the source of those figures? \$17.39 was the winning bid on the eBay auction that ended October 23, 2001.

- Ernie Turnes

General Funds

Balance as of September 31, 2001

\$6,528.90

Receipts

New Members (1)	\$10.00
Membership Dues 2001	\$0.00
Membership Dues 2002	\$0.00
Interest {Bank Account} Oct	\$8.51
Total Receipts	<u>\$18.51</u>

Subtotal

\$6,547.41

Expenses

Check #1011 - John Scranage (Web Design Assistance)	\$100.00
Check #1012 - Yahoo (Web domain name- 1 year)	\$35.00
Check #1013 - Robert Newhouse (LTS #197)	
Mary Hammel - Graphics	\$25.00
Kinko's	\$77.65
Postage	\$109.32
	<u>\$211.97</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$346.97</u>

Balance as of November 30, 2001

\$6,200.44

Permanent Fund

Audubon Savings and Loan Association 1 year certificate of deposit	\$655.55
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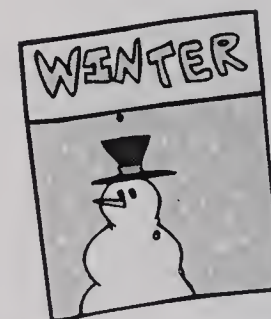
Membership Report

Membership As of Sept. 31, 2001	213
New Members	1
Reinstated Member	0
Deceased	0
Membership As of Nov. 30, 2001	214

Sidney R. Gale - Secretary /Treasurer

Welcome New Members!

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5052 Willow Wood Rd.
Rolling Hills Est., CA 90274



Contact information for Jeff Siptak,
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Jeff Siptak
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Nashville, TN 37204
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Dispelling Love Token Myths

By Carol Harnes

(Part I of a continuing series)

Dimes were most often used for love tokens because they were a good size and silver is a soft metal, therefore easily engraved. Statements similar to this one are used often to describe why dimes are most prevalent as love tokens. It is true that silver is soft, but so are gold and copper. These metals make up all of the circulating coins of the period, with the exception of only nickels and three cent nickels.

As for the size, one can look at other engraved monogrammed items of the period. Signet ring engravings were usually half dime or dime size. Locketts were very common, and engravings on them are usually quarter or half dollar size. Probably the most abundant use of monogramming was on silver flatware sets, with a monogram on every piece. Today's sets have a salad/dessert fork, dinner fork, steak knife, butter knife, tea spoon, and soup spoon. In the Victorian era, there were different utensils for each course, as well as each food type. Among the wealthy, it was not uncommon to have a table setting with twelve or more utensils in each place setting and entire services for a dozen or more people. The monograms on these sets ranged from half dime to dime size, suggesting that engravers might feel more comfortable working in this size when related to love tokens. Silver plates

and serving platters had larger initials varying from quarter to dollar size or even larger. With the many applications for engraving, there should not have been any problem executing a design on any of the circulating coins of the time.

Not all love tokens have initials, and others such as pictorials may have different requirements. A comparison with pocket watches seems most appropriate here. Many people owned a pocket watch and watch case engraving became quite elaborate often including flowers, scrollwork, landscapes or animals. Occasionally other embellishments of tri color gold overlay, gemstones, or enameling was incorporated, just as with the fancier love tokens.

Women's and men's pocket watches, which equate in size to the half dollar and dollar love tokens, are a far better size for the more elaborate designs. Why then are so few pictorials on these denominations? It is reminiscent of the remarkable concept of trying to fit something large on the head of a pin.

Some light may be shed on this matter when looking at a Victorian postcard which shows a "one dime" coin and the inscription "Emblem of good fortune". In the book entitled *Tokens of Love* by Roberta B. Etter, a passage reads "Coins were used as magical amulets and charms in England as early as the

fifteenth century." Lloyd Entenmann's book, *Love Tokens as Engraved Coins*, states that benders were also carried for good luck. Benders were generally silver shillings or six pence coins that were twice bent to distinguish them so they would not be spent accidentally. Benders were made for religious reasons and tokens of affection as well. Today there still exists a tradition of luck associated with money. How many pennies have been picked up in memory of the lucky penny rhyme. What better way could there be to give the wish of good fortune to another than with a love token dime bearing the initials of the giver in fond remembrance? With inflation and the passing of a romantic era, all that is left today is the one cent coin discarded, dropped, or just too worthless to lean over and pick up.

Answers to love token quiz:

Most of the questions (1-8) can be answered true or false. In the coming months I will be explaining what makes these commonly held ideas false. The answers to the multiple choice questions are d, all of the above. Love tokens encompass a number of different items. We should possibly distinguish ours as coin love tokens when referring to them. This will also be the subject of a coming article in my series of "Dispelling Love Token Myths."

I'd Like to Buy a Vowel

By Jeff Siptak

Let's take a spin at the wheel and see what letters we can find. Collecting love tokens is kind of like a wheel of fortune... you just keep spinning around, adding to your collection, and hoping you don't land on bankrupt.

I am new not only to the society, but new to the world of love tokens. I happened across both while searching eBay for something and hitting a love token that was being sold. Perhaps a token with a willow tree on it, as I am a collector of willow-patterned china and pottery. I actually write, edit, and produce a 20-page quarterly newsletter for willow collectors, so I thought I'd respond to the call of submitting to this newsletter, as that is something I always appreciate as well.

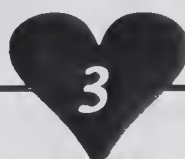
This chance meeting of what I call the "willow token" sparked an idea and opened a new world of collecting. I decided I would start collecting tokens to create a bracelet for my wife. I just thought the charm and history of the love token would make a nice and unusual bracelet. This was before I learned about and joined the Love Token Society, so I just bought whatever tokens I could afford, whatever the initials, design, etc. Once a member, I discovered that most collectors fine-tune their buys to initials of their families, etc. I was well into 8-10 tokens of "everyone else's" initials before I realized maybe my wife's bracelet would be nicer with our family's initials. I have yet to find any, but I continue to look and search eBay here and there.




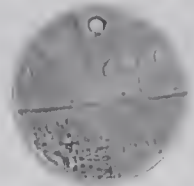
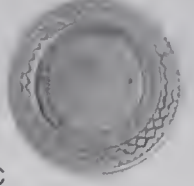

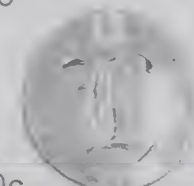

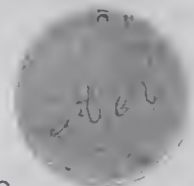
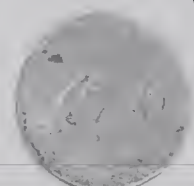
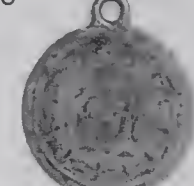




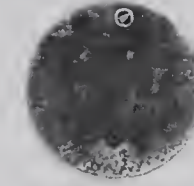







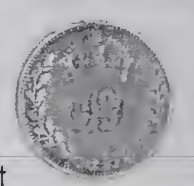


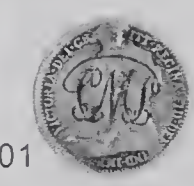

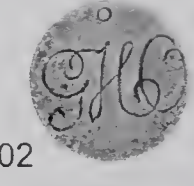


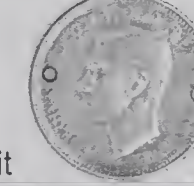

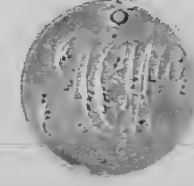



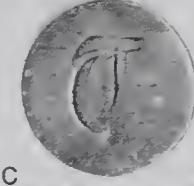

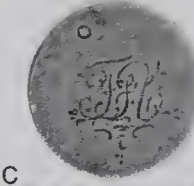
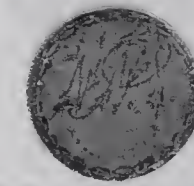

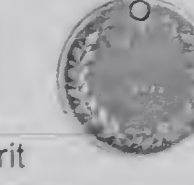
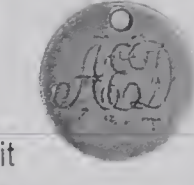

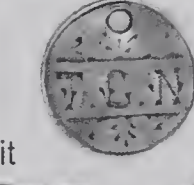
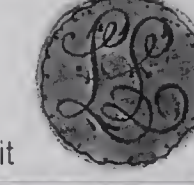
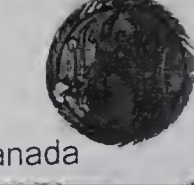

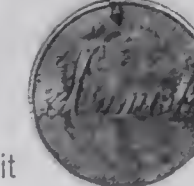




After 15 years of collecting the willow pattern, and feeling pretty knowledgeable in the area, it is fun and challenging to be at the




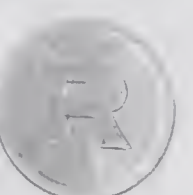

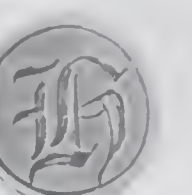

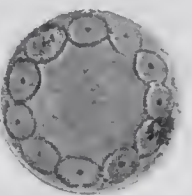



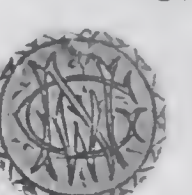












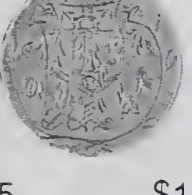

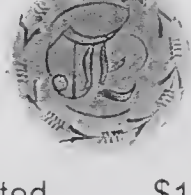

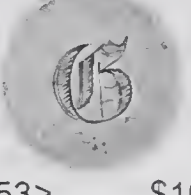
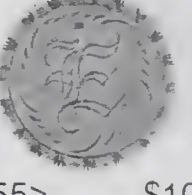
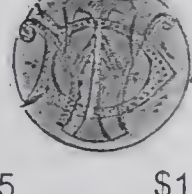

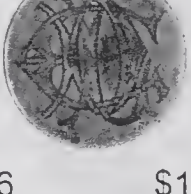

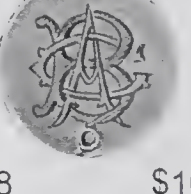
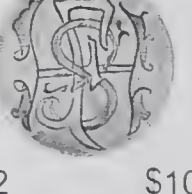
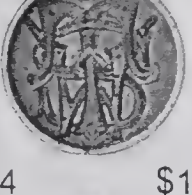


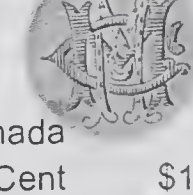
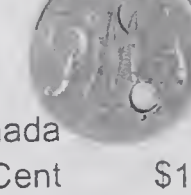
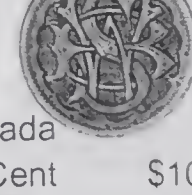
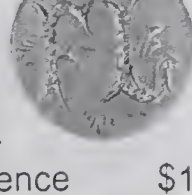
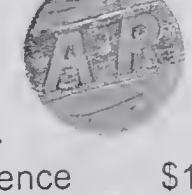
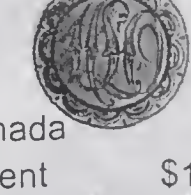
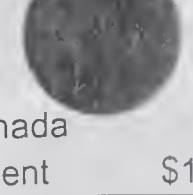
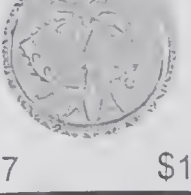
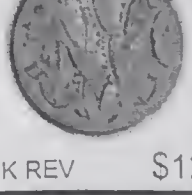
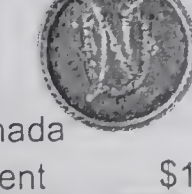
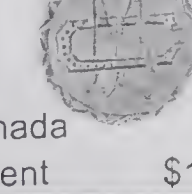
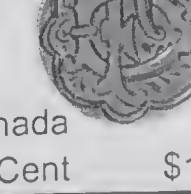
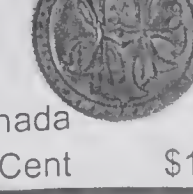
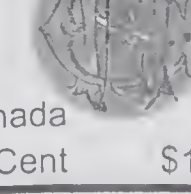
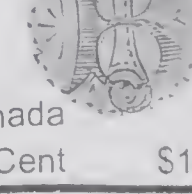
beginner level of a new area of collecting. I, like I am sure many novice willow collectors are when seeing an advanced collection, am totally amazed at the tokens other collectors find and own. Where do you guys get these things?

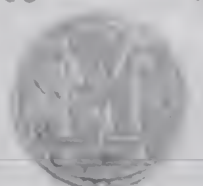


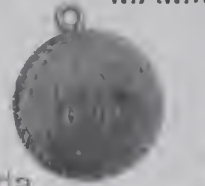
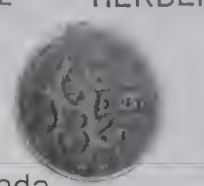


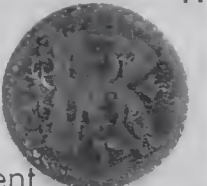




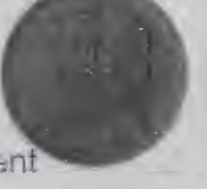
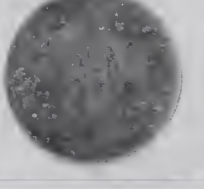




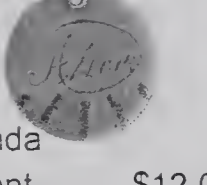
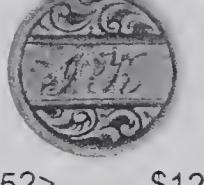




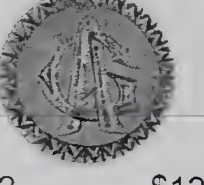

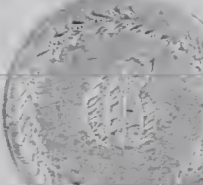

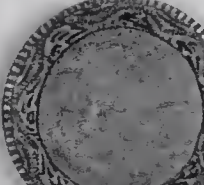

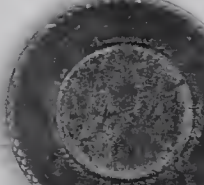
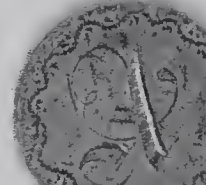



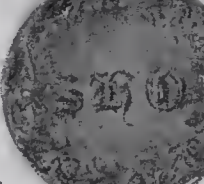




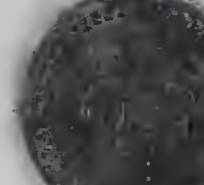


I guess I will have to find some local coin shows to hunt. I envy some of the finds and hope one day to maybe find a token treasure. The closest token find I have come across not on eBay or in the newsletter is in a local coin and stamp shop here. They have a nice quarter size initialed token for about \$35... to me it seems a bit high and they won't come down on the price. So there it sits.

In the meantime, I just keep searching for my vowels: and consonants. I'm looking for... A, AS, ARS... J, JS, JWS... R, RS, RRS or RSR... K, or the names Ashley or Katie. And, as with many collectors, any variations of Mom or Wife would be nice to find as well. My contact information is on page 2. Good luck on your next spin!

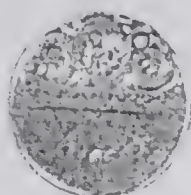


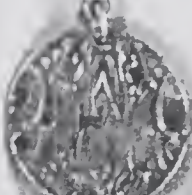
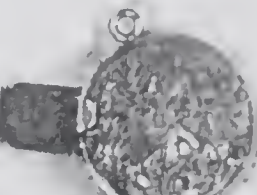














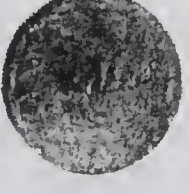




G-1  1877 \$8.00	GDB G-2  R.E. BLANK REV \$8.00	MLP J-1  R.E. BLANK REV \$6.00	NMR J-2  1876 \$5.00	TJE J-4  10c Seat. Lib \$6.00	Prefab J-5  <185?> \$8.00
J-6  10c Seat. Lib \$7.00	L J-7  1857 \$7.00	AP J-8  10c Seat. Lib \$7.00	AK J-9  1884 \$7.00	JRM J-10  1851 \$7.00	CH J-11  10c Seat. Lib \$7.00
J-12  1871 \$7.00	RA J-13  1875 \$7.00	JB J-14  1877 \$7.00	M J-15  1882 \$7.00	HM J-16  <1854> \$7.00	MP J-17  1876 \$7.00
J-18  1883 \$7.00	GMS J-19  1884 \$7.00	RW J-20  Brit 3 Pence \$7.00	MHP J-21  Brit 3 Pence \$7.00	WP J-22  Brit 3 Pence \$7.00	NJK J-23  Brit 3 Pence \$7.00
J-24  1837 3 Pence \$7.00	EAB J-25  1876 3 Pence \$7.00	F J-26  1901 3 Pence \$7.00	CMP J-27  1875 3 Pence \$7.00	AHM J-28  1902 3 Pence \$7.00	GHO J-29  Canada Half Dime \$7.00
J-30  Canada Dime \$7.00	MFG J-31  Brit 6 Pence \$7.00	blank J-32  1876 \$8.00	MFH J-33  1877 \$8.00	ACW J-34  1877 \$8.00	CBP J-35  1877 \$8.00
J-36  1887 \$8.00	FRE J-37  10c Seat. Lib \$8.00	T J-38  1884 \$8.00	WHW J-39  10c Seat. Lib \$8.00	TH J-40  1877 \$8.00	NNJ J-41  1883 \$8.00
J-42  Brit 3 Pence \$8.00	Mac J-43  Brit 3 Pence \$8.00	AED J-44  Brit 3 Pence \$8.00	TLM J-45  Brit 3 Pence \$8.00	TCN J-46  Brit 4 Pence \$8.00	LL J-47  Canada Half Dime \$8.00
J-48  Brit 3 Pence \$8.00	FCP J-49  Brit 6 Pence \$8.00	Hamish J-50  Brit 1/2 Penny \$8.00	MH J-51  Stamped Sterling \$8.00	A J-52  IH CENT \$8.00	CW/CC/LL J-53  1875 \$8.00

J-54  1877 \$8.00	J-55 JVL  1877 \$8.00	J-56 CHC  1877 \$8.00	J-57 MAB  1877 \$8.00	R J-58 AWD  1876 \$8.00	J-59 K  10c Seated \$8.00
J-60 B  10c Seated \$8.00	J-61 design  <1853> \$9.00	J-62 JFF  1888 \$9.00	J-93 THR  1872 \$9.00	J-64 MK  <1853> \$9.00	J-65 GWN  1876 \$9.00
J-66 RLH  1889 \$9.00	J-67 AH  1875 \$9.00	J-68 C  1857 \$9.00	J-69 JGC  1890 \$9.00	J-70 AW  10c Seated \$9.00	J-71 F  10c Seated \$9.00
J-72 AW  Brit. Farthing \$9.00	J-73 RB  Brit. 4 Pence \$9.00	J-74 JD  Brit. 3 Pence \$9.00	J-75 VH  Brit. 3 Pence \$9.00	J-76 CFC  Brit. 3 Pence \$9.00	J-77 WKC  Brit. 3 Pence \$9.00
J-78 HFT  1875 \$10.00	J-79 CBT  R.E. BLANK REV \$10.00	J-80 E  10c Seated \$10.00	J-81 Prefab  1838 \$10.00	J-82 G  <1853> \$10.00	J-83 E  <1855> \$10.00
J-84 TWD  1875 \$10.00	J-85 FF  1875 \$10.00	J-86 DLE  1876 \$10.00	J-87 MWB  1877 \$10.00	J-88 ACB  1878 \$10.00	J-89 SFH  1882 \$10.00
J-90 SWT  1884 \$10.00	J-91 CAM  1884 \$10.00	J-92 TLF  1887 \$10.00	J-93 CMM  Canada 10 Cent \$10.00	J-94 DMG  Canada 10 Cent \$10.00	J-95 BWS  Canada 10 Cent \$10.00
J-96 FL  Brit. 4 Pence \$10.00	J-97 AR  Brit. 3 Pence \$10.00	J-98 HLO  Canada 5 Cent \$10.00	J-99 JMY  Canada 5 Cent \$10.00	J-100 AGT  1887 \$12.00	J-101 NM  R.E. BLANK REV \$12.50
J-102 NU  Canada 5 Cent \$12.50	J-103 LMC  Canada 5 Cent \$12.50	J-104 FD  Canada 10 Cent \$12.50	J-105 HV  Canada 10 Cent \$12.50	J-106 CEH  Canada 10 Cent \$12.50	J-107 IB  Canada 10 Cent \$12.50

J-108  1877 \$12.50	MLS	J-109  1875 \$12.50	TC	J-110  Both Sides \$15.00	1884 MAN	J-111  Canada 5 Cent \$15.00	J-112  Canada 5 Cent \$15.00	HERBERT			
J-113  Shield S 1869 \$15.00	TJ	J-114  3c Nickel 1867 \$15.00	LB	J-115  IH Cent 1883 \$15.00	HR	S-1  Canada 10 Cent \$5.00	F	S-2  H.DIME <1854> \$6.00	C	S-3  H.DIME 1857 \$7.00	PS
S-4  RE Both Sides \$7.00	MW/HV	S-5  IH Cent 1874 \$9.00	D	S-6  <1853> \$9.00	P	S-7  H.DIME 1851 \$10.00	Ed.FL	S-8  1876 \$10.00	JE	S-9  <1853> \$10.00	FAB
S-10  1876 \$10.00	FWB	S-11  Canada 5 Cent \$12.00	ALICE	S-12  <185?> \$12.00	JK	S-13  1884 \$12.00	BS	S-14  <1854> \$17.00	Matching Earrings		IM
S-15  1861 \$18.00	Matching Earrings		R	S-16  1861 \$15.00	Matching Earrings		S-17  1882 \$12.00	GA	S-18  1886 \$12.00	CB	
S-19  25c Seat.Lib \$14.00	G	S-20  25c <1853> \$14.00	C	S-21  25c 1859 \$12.00	Design	S-22  25c Seat.Lib \$12.00	CW	S-23  25c <1854> \$14.00	JW	S-24  25c <1853> \$15.00	A
S-25  25c 1858 \$14.00	MCA	S-26  25c 1876 \$14.00	J.Schnind	S-27  25c 1842 \$15.00	FJF	S-28  25c Seat.Lib \$15.00	SKO	S-29  25c 1857 \$15.00	MJL	S-30  25c 1858 \$15.00	FEL
S-31  25c 1858 \$15.00	LS	S-32  25c 1858 \$15.00	FC	S-33  25c 1843	Matching Pins		S-34  25c 1876 \$35.00	DB	S-34  LC 1797 \$25.00	SH/1807	

AUCTION

D-1	Auntie	D-2	ANNA	D-3	May	D-4	WVH	EK	
									
1876	10c	1888	10c	1882	10c	Canadian	10c Smooth		
D-5	KK	D-6						AWN	
	Souvenir/ May 1st/ 1892							USY	
1\$		10c						ORY	
Gold		Canadian						WNG	
D-7	WILL	D-8	Pinback	D-9	MM	S-1	ALR		
									
5 Francs 1836-1846		5 Mark 1876		1H Cent 1887		Gold \$ Type 1			
				S-2	CWC	S-3	Y		
									
				G B. 1825-1829		10c <1853>			
S-4	GH	S-5	Feb-13/	S-6	JW to OW	S-7	SC	Z-1	RIA
			1897						
20c 1875		Large Cent		50c Seat. Lib		50c <1853>		2 Mark 1902	Enamelled
I-2	Georgie	Z-3	Hallie	Z-4	Bird Pict MH	E-1	DHG		
									
10c <1855>		10c 1889		R.E Both Sides		Gold \$ Type 1			

Love Tokens for Sale and Auction - by Steve Tompkins

Hello all, and welcome to another issue of the Love Letter which is filled to the brim with, I hope, a love token for everyone. We sold almost everything from the last sale so this is mostly fresh material. Thank you all for your participation! As you can see there are a lot of coins to choose from as well as an auction, a total of 185 tokens. The last issue was void of a sale as I had material still coming in. I am hopeful that is was worth the wait!

Anyone who had trouble getting in touch with me, I apologize. Please feel free to call and leave a message if I don't get right back to you via e-mail. I check my phone and e-mail messages daily so you should hear right back from me. I hope to see some of you at the FUN show. Be sure to bring any material you have for sale.

There are some things that need to be said about the material in the sale. Any token with just a date listed you can assume is a US dime. Lot J-110 is one coin which I tried to show both sides of. Hopefully I will come up with a better method for this in the future. Lot S-15 is actually broken cufflinks, not earrings. Lots S-23 and S-24 have intact, working pinbacks. Auction lot D-4 is matching ends of a bracelet. Lot D-5 may be a \$2 gold and it has a reeded edge. Lot D-8 has no engraving but has a working pinback. Lot D-9 is in a gold bezel. Lot S-5 has a pinback. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

LOVE TOKEN MAIL BID SALE CLOSES ON FEBRUARY 14 (The day of Love!)

TERMS OF THE SALE:

1. No buyers fee. Seller pays \$.50 per coin sold.
2. Sellers may have placed a reserve bid.
3. All winning bids over \$15 will be reduced to approximately 10% above the second highest bid. No bids under \$15 will be reduced.
4. All bids must be received by 8 p.m. (CST) on closing date. Phone and e-mail bids are encouraged, but the only information given will be the second highest bid.
5. Winning bidders will be notified as soon as the sale closes. Buyer must send payment, including postage and insurance, then coins will be sent out upon receipt of payment.

Ordering Love Tokens

Please make checks payable to:

Steve Tompkins
8510 Pershing
Raytown, MO 64138
(816) 699-2235
smt115@aol.com

In remitting, please do not forget to include the postage as follows:

Orders up to \$50.00 add \$1.75;
up to \$100.00, add \$3.00;
up to \$150.00, add \$3.75;
up to \$200.00, add \$4.75;
up to \$300.00, add \$5.25;
up to \$400.00, add \$7.25;
over \$400.00, add \$9.00.

Love Letter

Love Token Society Newsletter



Dr. Robert C. Newhouse
5840 Tuttle Cove Road
Manhattan, KS 66503